the Four Constables
4
DIRECTOR: TONY WONG
ILLUSTRATOR: ANDY SETO

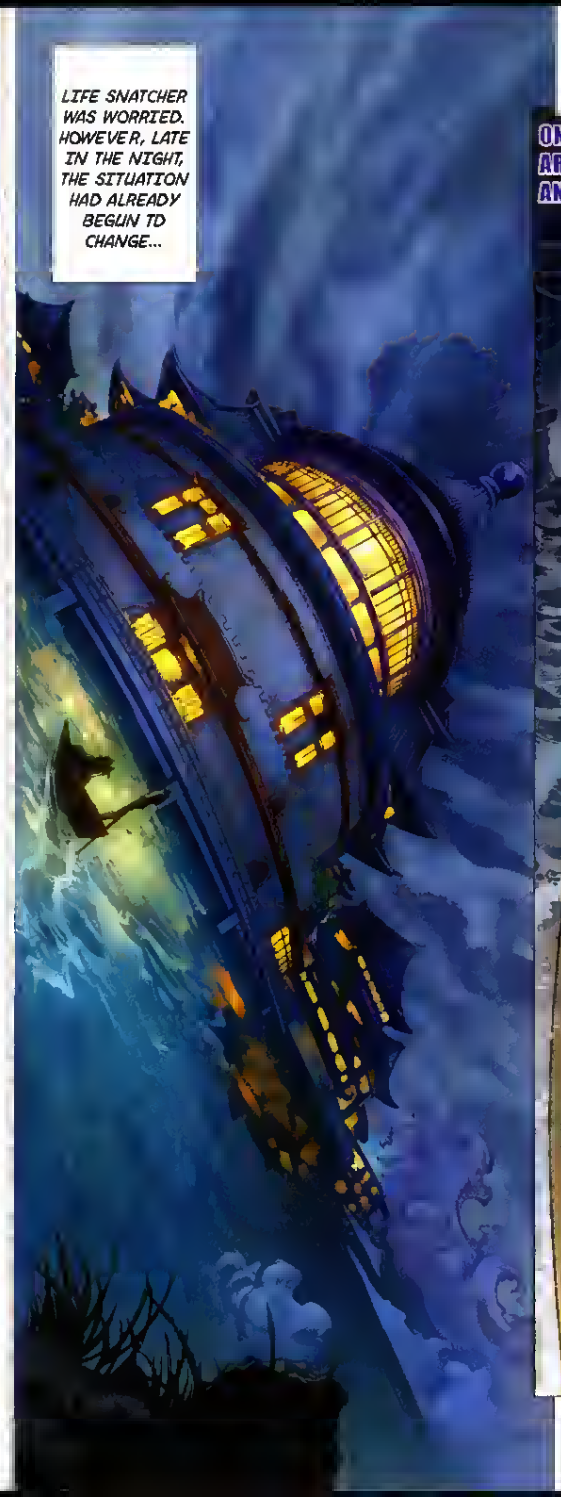
XIMEN HOUSE
FIRST BUTLER
XU HEI
YOU CAN KILL ME, BUT DON'T TORTURE ME. YOU CAN STAB ME A HUNDRED TIMES, JUST DON'T BE SO CRUEL!
XIMEN HOUSE
SECOND BUTLER
XU BAI

TORTURE? CONSTABLE, I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING. THE TWO OF US HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, WE MERELY WANTED TO...

HAVE A DRINK WITH YOU!

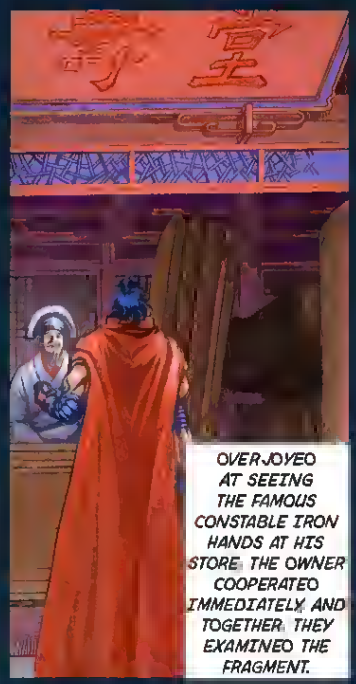
I WARN YOU... DON'T MOCK ME!

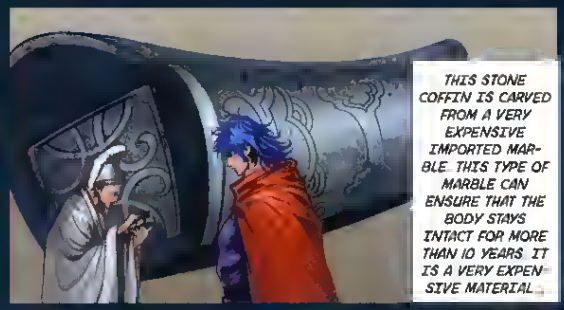
BUT WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME HAVE A REAL DRINK?
DON'T WORRY, THIS WINE WILL BE YOURS TOMORROW.
WHY NOT TODAY, OR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE TOMORROW?
MY MASTER SAID, TOMORROW MARKS THE END FOR THE FOUR CONSTABLES. SO THIS WILL BE POURED OVER YOUR GRAVE, AS A SEND-OFF FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO HEAVEN. HEHE!
ARE THE 13 MURDERERS USING ME AS BAIT TO LAY A TRAP FOR MY BROTHERS? THIS IS BAD. I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE AND WARN THEM!
THE END OF THE FOUR CONSTABLES?!

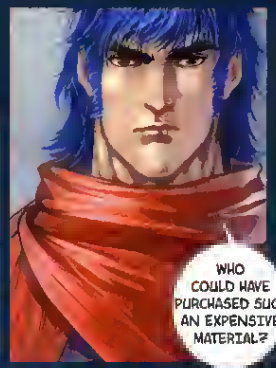

LIFE SNATCHER WAS WORRIED. HOWEVER, LATE IN THE NIGHT, THE SITUATION HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO CHANGE...

ON THE SMALL BOAT, ARE EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS!

PERHAPS THEY WERE NOT SO CARELESS... YOU WERE JUST MORE CAREFUL THAN THEY IMAGINED!
OF COURSE HE WAS EXTREMELY SHOCKED. HE MUST BE UPSET THAT THEIR CARELESSNESS REVEALED THEIR HIDEOUT!
HOW DID SIMA REACT WHEN HE SAW THAT BROKEN PIECE OF THE COFFIN?
THEN THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN SUCH A VALUABLE COFFIN, FROM SUCH A WELL-KNOWN CRAFTSMAN. PERHAPS THE GODS AID US IN OUR EFFORTS!
IF THEY KNEW YOU, THEY WOULD EXPECT YOU WOULD SEARCH THE COFFIN INSIDE AND OUT AND NOT LET EVEN ONE FRAGMENT GO UNCHECKED.
IRON HANDS' CAREFUL SEARCH YIELDED THIS CLUE. HE TRAVELED ALL NIGHT TO BEGIN HIS INVESTIGATION.
THE FRAGMENT HELD THE STAMP FOR THE LARGEST COFFIN MAKER IN THE NORTH.


OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE FAMOUS CONSTABLE IRON HANDS AT HIS STORE, THE OWNER COOPERATED IMMEDIATELY AND TOGETHER THEY EXAMINED THE FRAGMENT.

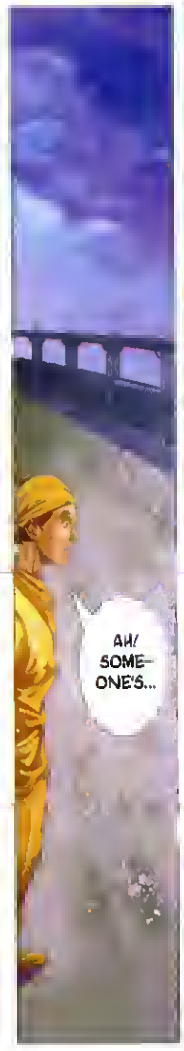

THIS STONE COFFIN IS CARVED FROM A VERY EXPENSIVE IMPORTED MARBLE. THIS TYPE OF MARBLE CAN ENSURE THAT THE BODY STAYS INTACT FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS. IT IS A VERY EXPENSIVE MATERIAL.

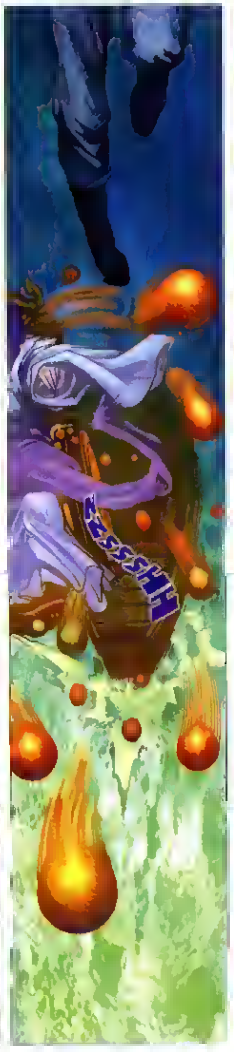

WHO COULD HAVE PURCHASED SUCH AN EXPENSIVE MATERIAL?

SUCH A VALUABLE MATERIAL IS RARE EVEN FOR OUR STORE. IN THE HUNDRED YEARS WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS, WE HAVE ONLY MADE ONE OTHER 10 YEARS AGO...
IT WAS FOR ...

XIMEN HOUSE!

XIMEN CLAN'S DWELLING IS EXPANSIVE, BUT APPEARS TO HAVE LIGHT SECURITY FOR ITS SIZE.

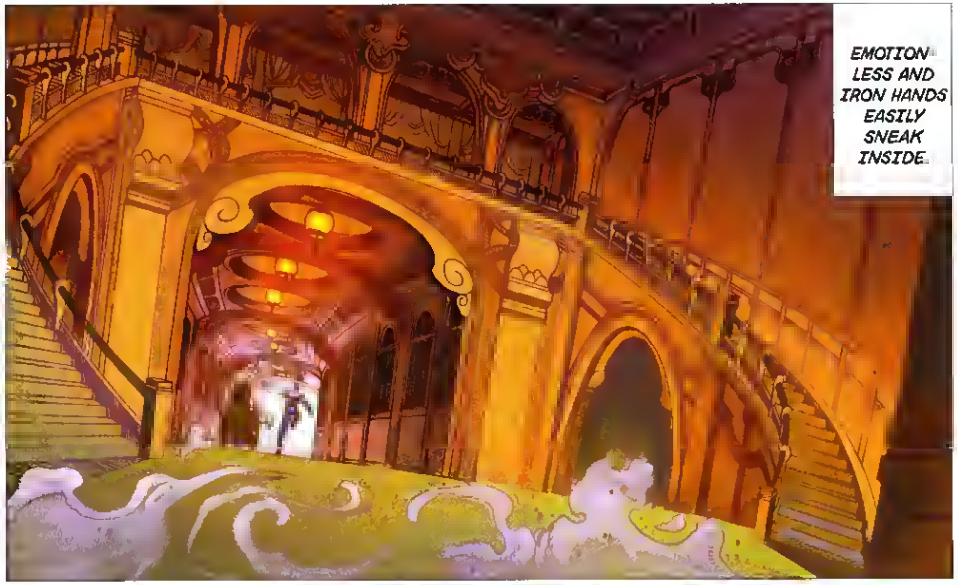

AH! SOME-ONE'S...


HHSSSSS

DUK

THEY WILL BE UNCON-SCIOUS FOR AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME FOR US!

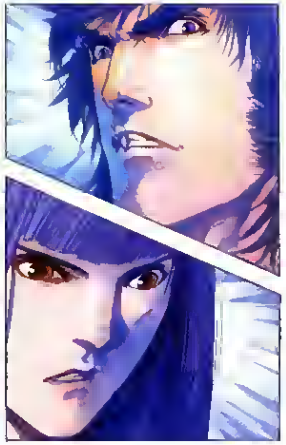
WE MUST SAVE 3RD BROTHER!


EMOTION-LESS AND IRON HANDS EASILY SNEAK INSIDE.

LUCKILY, UNCLE WAS ONCE INVITED TO A BANQUET HOSTED BY THE XIMEN CLAN. HE REMEMBERED THE STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT OF THIS PLACE; OTHERWISE WE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THE DUNGEONS.

THE XIMEN CLAN MUST HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WEALTH AND POWER TO HAVE BUILT THIS GREAT PALACE ON AN ISLAND IN THE GREAT LAKE. WHY DID THE MASTER FALL SO LOW AS TO JOIN THE 13 MASKED MEN?

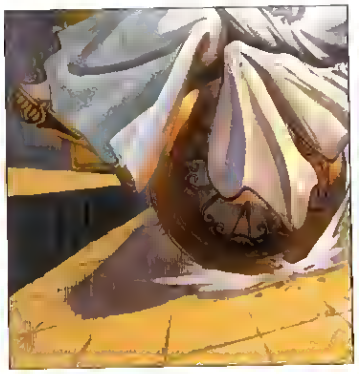
SLICK



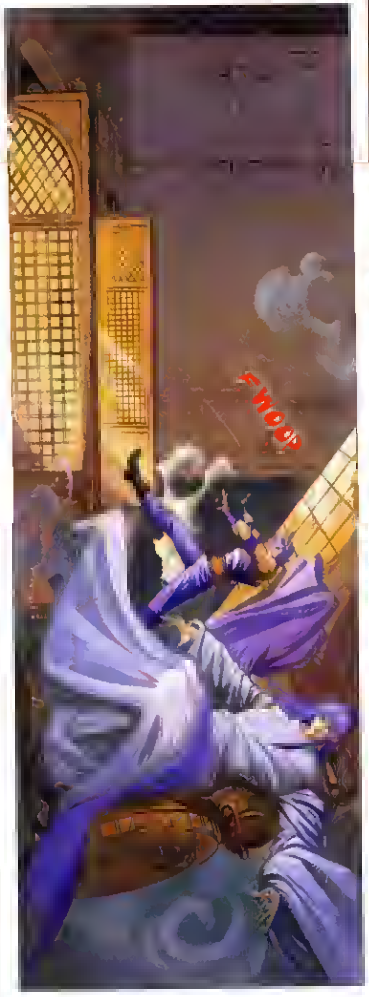
CHKT
CHKT

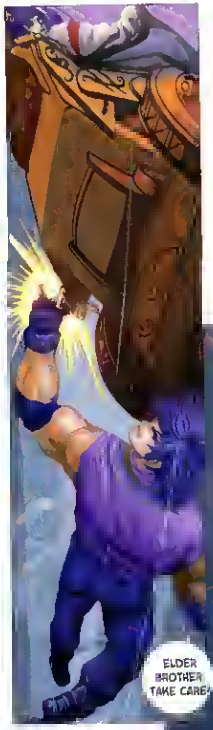
FZZSSHHH

FSA

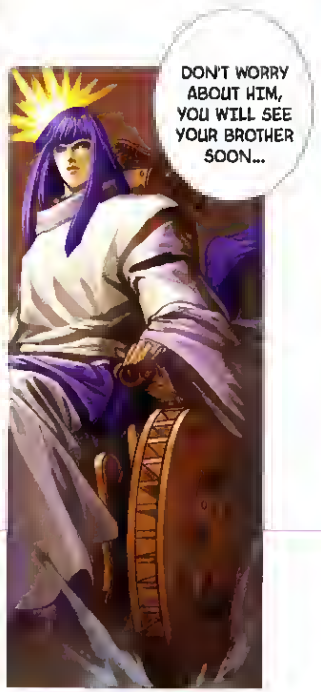


FWOOSH


FWOOP

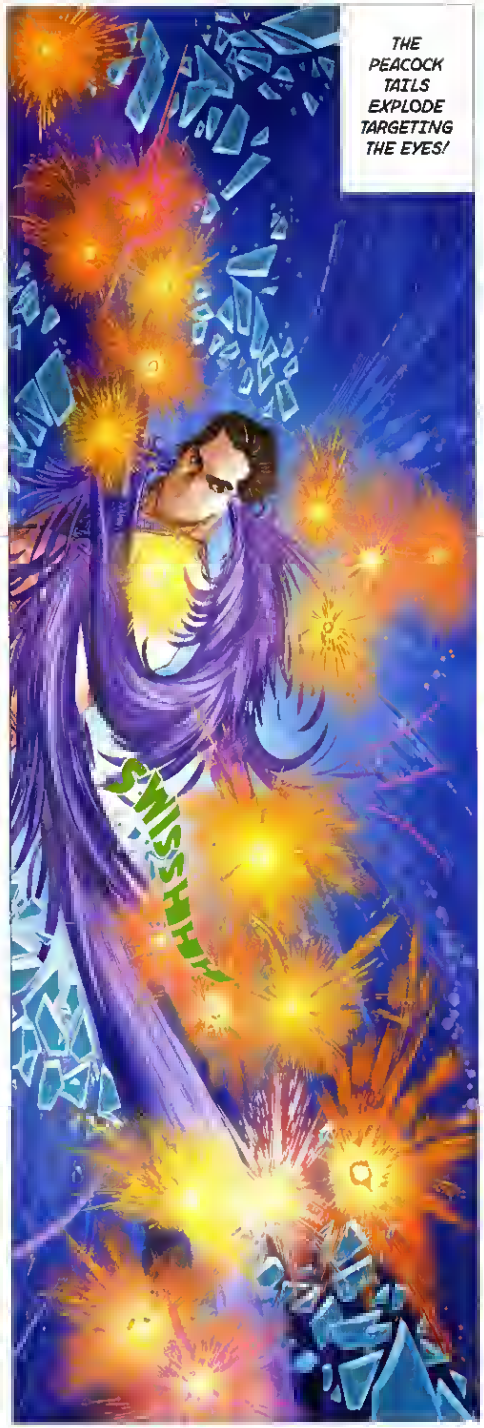

ELDER BROTHER, TAKE CARE!

2ND BROTHER!
BOY


DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, YOU WILL SEE YOUR BROTHER SOON...

FWISH
IN HELL!

PEACOCK SOAR
SKREEK


THE PEACOCK TAILS EXPLODE TARGETING THE EYES!
SWISSHHH!

FWISH

THE ENEMY IS UPON US SO QUICKLY. THEY SEEM PREPARED FOR BATTLE, HAVE WE... FALLEN FOR THEIR TRAP?!

MASTER OF THE XIMEN CLAN

PRINCE XIMEN

YOU REALLY ARE FAST AS LIGHTNING AND YOUR PROJECTILE TECHNIQUE IS SUPERB!

THE YING YANG FAN? SO YOU ARE PRINCE XIMEN!

TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY... AS A CONSTABLE YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IS AGAINST THE LAW!

SWISH

GHOST GOD DESTRUCTION FAN -

SEVENTH MONTH SEVENTH DATE DEATH TIME

HE FEINTS AND HIDES HIS REAL ATTACKS. MIXING THE YING WITH THE YANG. HIS ATTACH IS ALMOST FLAWLESS... HE'S GOOD!

KRSSSSSH

EMOTIONLESS DEFTLY EVADES THE POWERFUL ATTACKS!
PSSSH

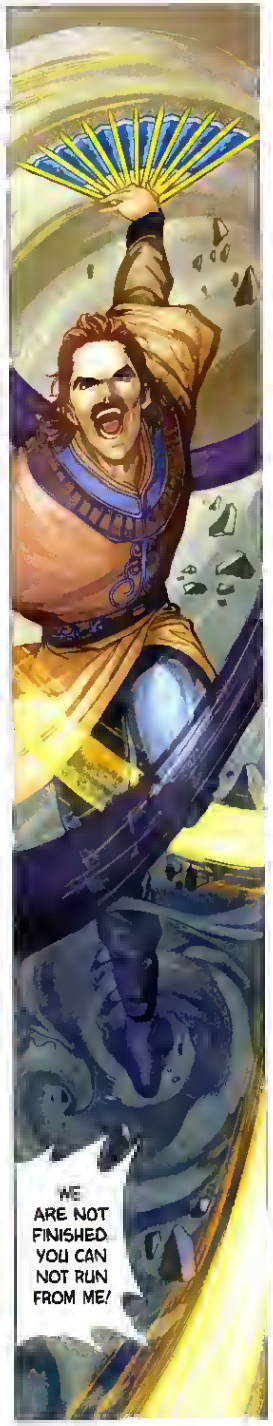
THE FAN IS A POWERFUL WEAPON UP CLOSE. WHILE MY PROJECTILE WEAPONS ARE MORE SUITED FOR DISTANCE. THIS SPACE IS SO SMALL AND NARROW.. THE ADVANTAGE IS HIS. HAVE TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US!

NO WAY TO HEAVEN
SHOO
SHOO

KRAKOOM

UP!

WITH HIS MIND MADE UP, EMOTIONLESS PUSHES THROUGH THE ROOF!
FWOOSH

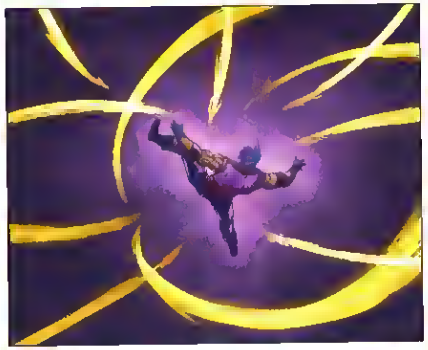

WE ARE NOT FINISHED. YOU CAN NOT RUN FROM ME!

SKRAK
EMOTIONLESS, YOU ARE TOO SMART FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, TONIGHT WILL BE THE END FOR YOU!

MORE ENEMIES COME AS THOUGH THEIR EVERY MOVE HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. HOW WILL EMOTIONLESS FACE THE INCREASING PERILS?

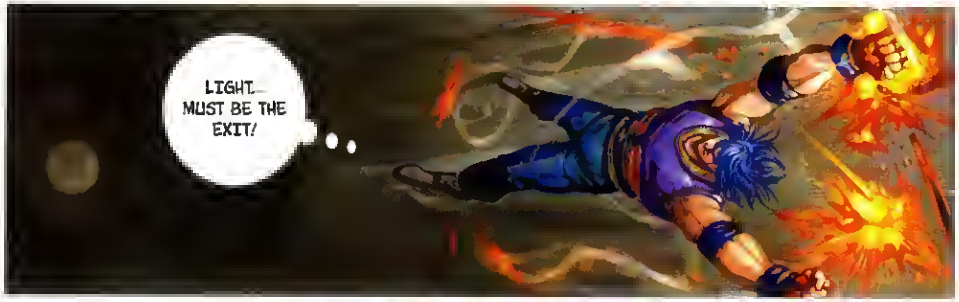
IRON HANDS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUES TO FALL INTO DARKNESS.

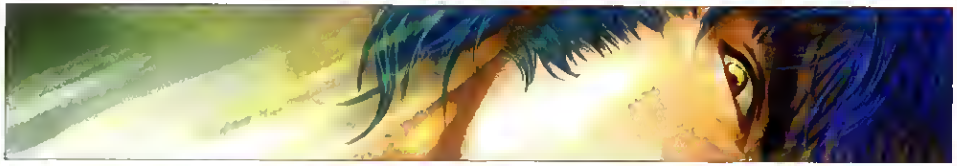
THIS TRAP IS DEVIOUS! I MUST BE CAREFUL!



ANYONE ELSE WOULD ALREADY HAVE BECOME A FLAMING PORCUPINE, BUT NOT IRON HANDS. HIS STRENGTH--INCREDIBLE! HIS HANDS--NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!

IRON SWING
SILVER HOOK

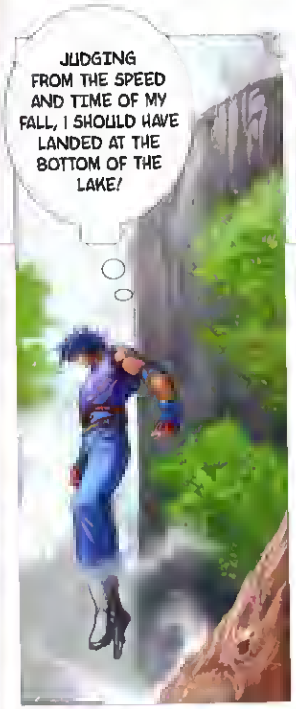

LIGHT... MUST BE THE EXIT!



HE SEES THE GLINTING LIGHT AND CONCENTRATES. FOCUSING HIS POWER INTO PURE DEFENSE.
YA.

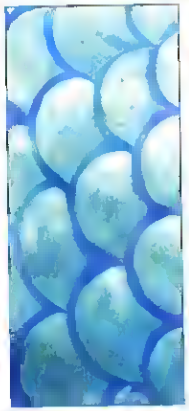
RUMBLE

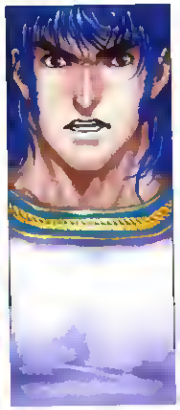
IF EVERY DRAGON'S MOUTH CONNECTS TO A TRAP, NO WONDER THE XIMEN CLAN SEEMS LAX IN SECURITY OUTSIDE. THEY HAVE INCREDIBLE DEFENSES WITHIN!


JUDGING FROM THE SPEED AND TIME OF MY FALL, I SHOULD HAVE LANDED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE!

HOW MUCH MONEY AND MANPOWER WOULD IT HAVE TAKEN TO CREATE SUCH A GRAND STRUCTURE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE...

AH!

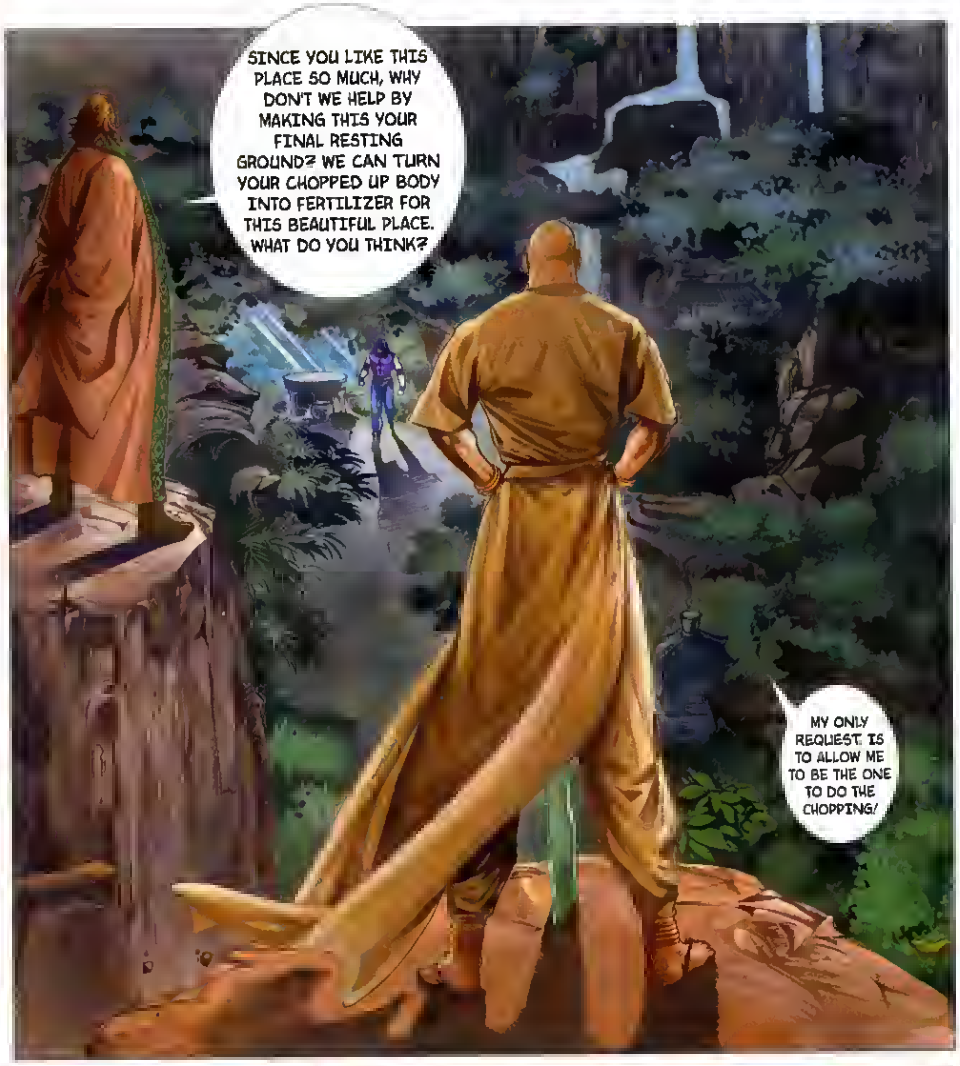


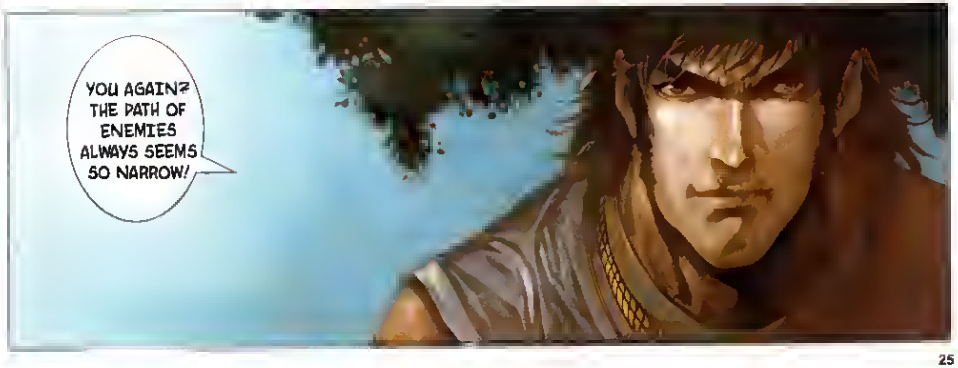


GODS... THIS ISN'T MADE OF METAL. IT IS A WALL OF PURE CRYSTAL! IT'S TALLER THAN I AM. IT MUST BE PRICELESS!

EVERYTHING WITHIN THE XIMEN CLAN OOZES WEALTH AND POWER--EVEN MORE THAN SOME ROYALTY. WHY DID THEY BECOME A PART OF THE 13 MASKED MEN... I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

LOOK AT YOUR SURPRISE AND FOND ATTACHMENT TO MY "AQUA WONDERLAND"!


SINCE YOU LIKE THIS PLACE SO MUCH, WHY DON'T WE HELP BY MAKING THIS YOUR FINAL RESTING GROUND? WE CAN TURN YOUR CHOPPED UP BODY INTO FERTILIZER FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MY ONLY REQUEST IS TO ALLOW ME TO BE THE ONE TO DO THE CHOPPING!

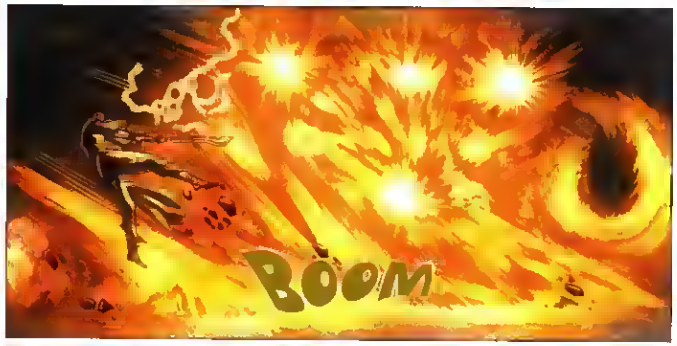

YOU AGAIN? THE PATH OF ENEMIES ALWAYS SEEMS SO NARROW!

OUYANG JUE
THE NARROW PATH IS YOUR PATH TO DEATH/ CONSTABLE. LAST TIME YOU GOT LUCKY. THIS TIME YOU WILL BE FINISHED/
DUGU WEI
BEG, AND PERHAPS WE WILL GRANT YOU A QUICK DEATH/
THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS, BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU KNEW I WAS COMING HERE?
THE REASON IS SIMPLE. THIS IS A TRAP/ EVERYTHING HAS BEEN A TRAP/
THAT IS RIGHT. BOSS SIMA FALLING INTO YOUR HANDS, THE STONE COFFIN, THE CARELESS CLUE, THESE ALL LURED YOU TOWARDS YOUR DEATH/
WITH YOUR PROWESS AND ADVANTAGES, YOU DON'T NEED TO SET SUCH ELABORATE TRAPS I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR OBVIOUS LIES/
HEHE... MANY YEARS AGO, THE DUKE SENT 3000 SOLDIERS ON A NIGHT RAID OF MASTER ZHUGE'S HALLS, YET NONE CAME BACK ALIVE. PENETRATING MASTER ZHUGE'S HALLS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK/ UNLESS...
WHAT YOU CANNOT TAKE BY FORCE, YOU CAN TAKE BY CUNNING. NOW THERE IS NO ONE LEFT AT MASTER ZHUGE'S HALL BUT THE WEAKENED, USELESS COLD BLOODED. YET OUR BOSS SITS SQUARELY WITHIN YOUR HALLS. IRON HANDS, EVEN YOU MUST CONCEDE THAT THIS WAS A GOOD TRAP/
SIMA? OH NO/ IS HE PLANNING TO...
HAH/

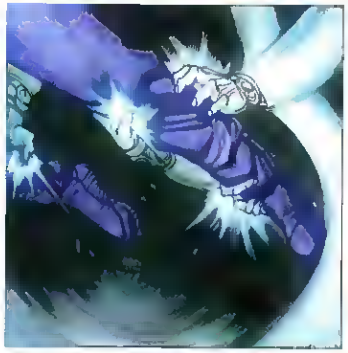
DUGU WEI LAUNCHES A SURPRISE ATTACK WHILE IRON HANDS IS STILL LOST IN THOUGHT. QUICK AS LIGHTNING, HE SLICES A BLOODY GASH ACROSS IRON HANDS' CHEST!
SWISSH
EAT THIS!
NINE DEATHS SWORD STYLE - DEATH OF NO REMAINS

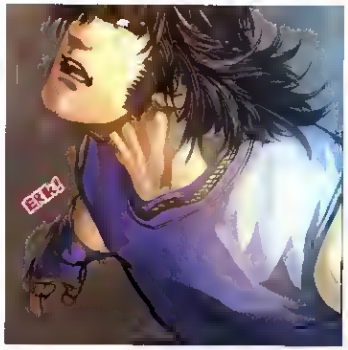
10 MILES
SHOCK THUNDER
THOOM

PANG!

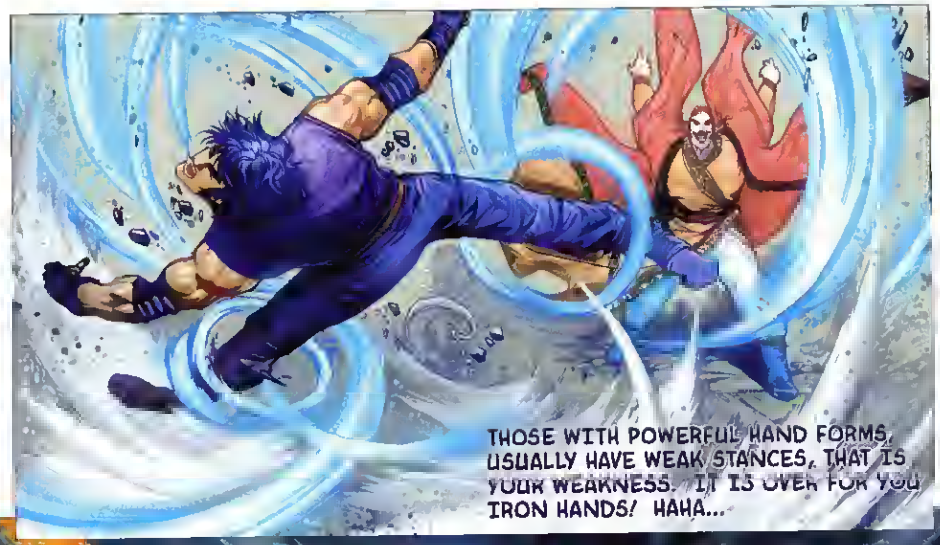

BOOM

A LIFE AND DEATH DUEL SHOULD NOT BE DONE WITH SNEAK ATTACKS!



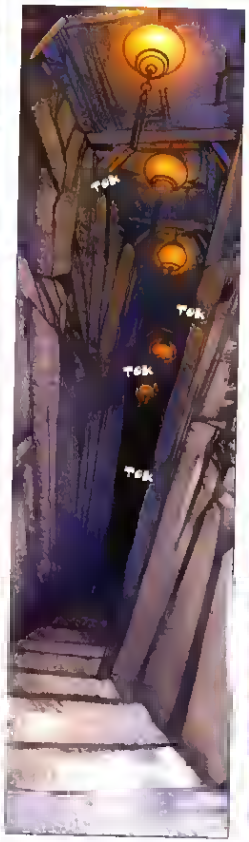

ERK!

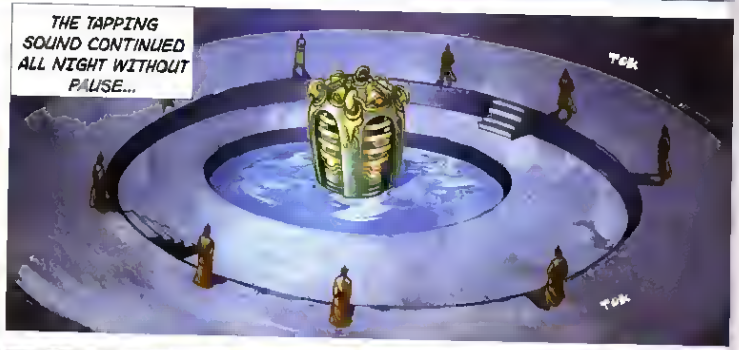
HA, SORRY, WE ARE NO GENTLEMEN!
FINGER STRIKE FROM 3 YARDS TO THROAT


THOSE WITH POWERFUL HAND FORMS, USUALLY HAVE WEAK STANCES, THAT IS YOUR WEAKNESS. IT IS OVER FOR YOU IRON HANDS! HAHA...

SLICE HIM IN HALF, WE WILL EACH CLAIM HALF THE VICTORY. KILL HIM!
NINE DEATHS SWORD STYLE - SOUL BLOOD TEARS

MASTER ZHUGE'S RESIDENCE

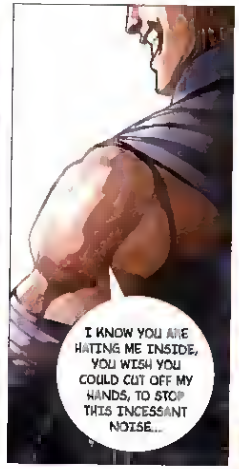

TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK


THE TAPPING SOUND CONTINUED ALL NIGHT WITHOUT PAUSE...
TOK
TOK
TOK

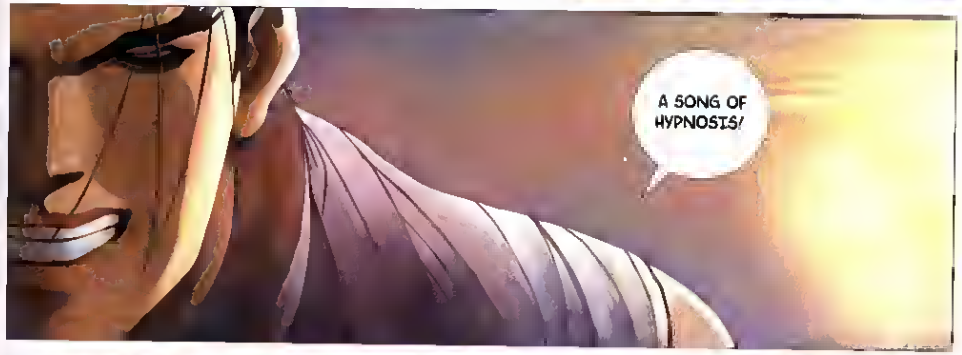
THE GUARDS ARE ALL SPECIALLY TRAINED, YET EVEN THEY ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF IRRITATION.
TOK
TOK

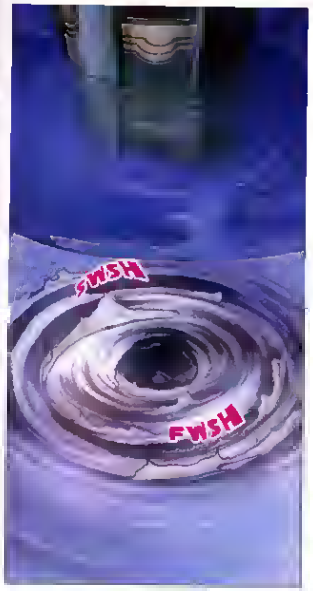
THE SOUND IS NOT ONLY IRRITATING, BUT IT ALSO INDUCES A STRANGE CHILL, AS IF...
TOK

IT CAME FROM A HELL FAR AWAY, THE COMMAND OF THE GOD OF DEATH.


I KNOW YOU ARE HATING ME INSIDE, YOU WISH YOU COULD CUT OFF MY HANDS, TO STOP THIS INCESSANT NOISE...

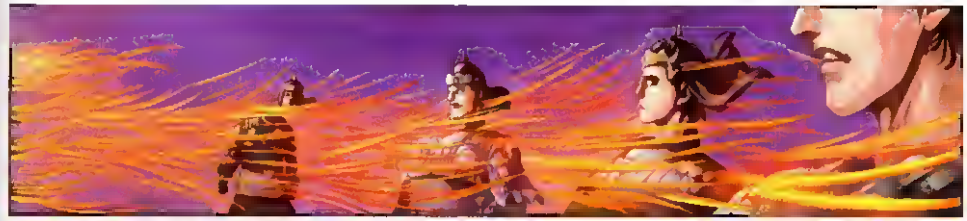
LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THIS SOUND IS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU -

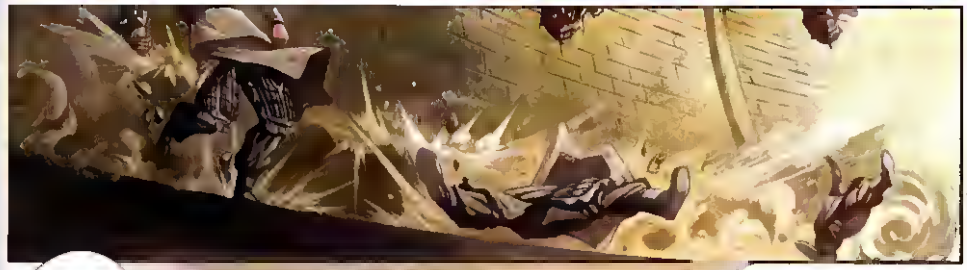

A SONG OF HYPNOSIS!

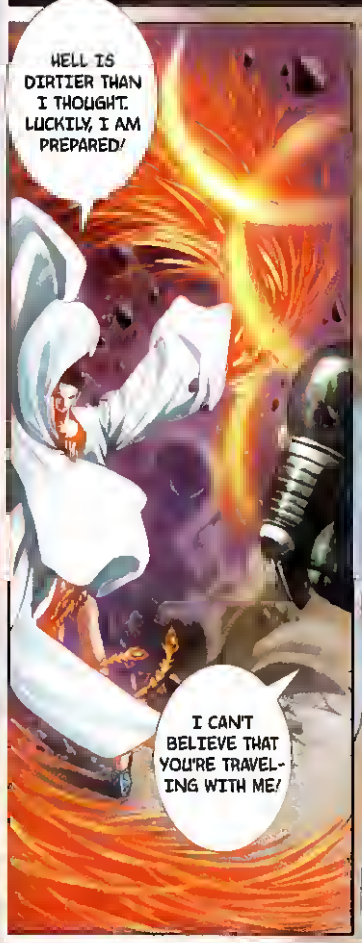

SWISH
FWSH

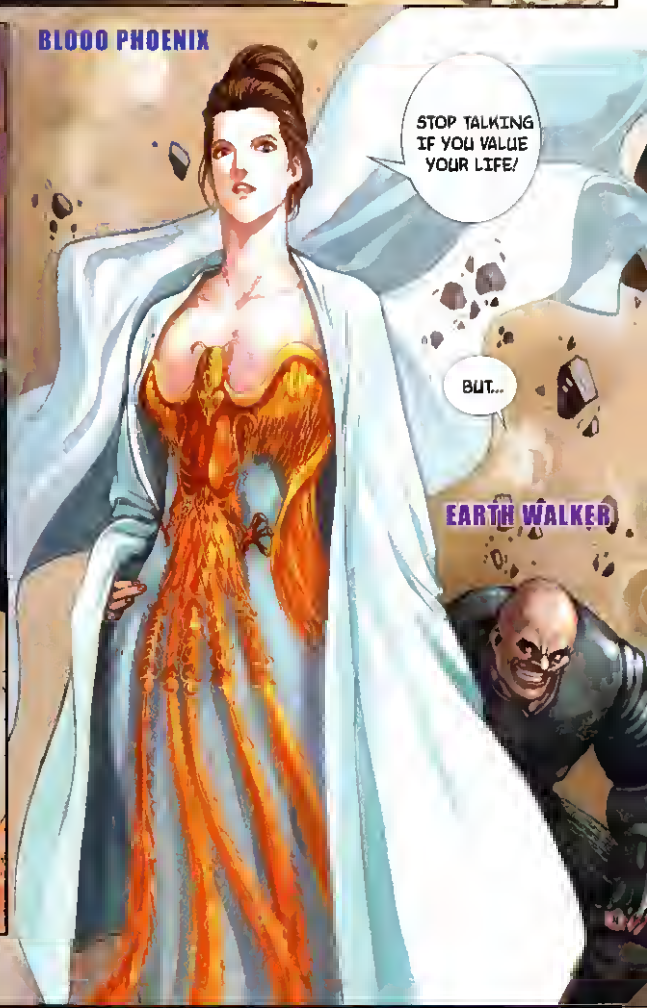
SWISH

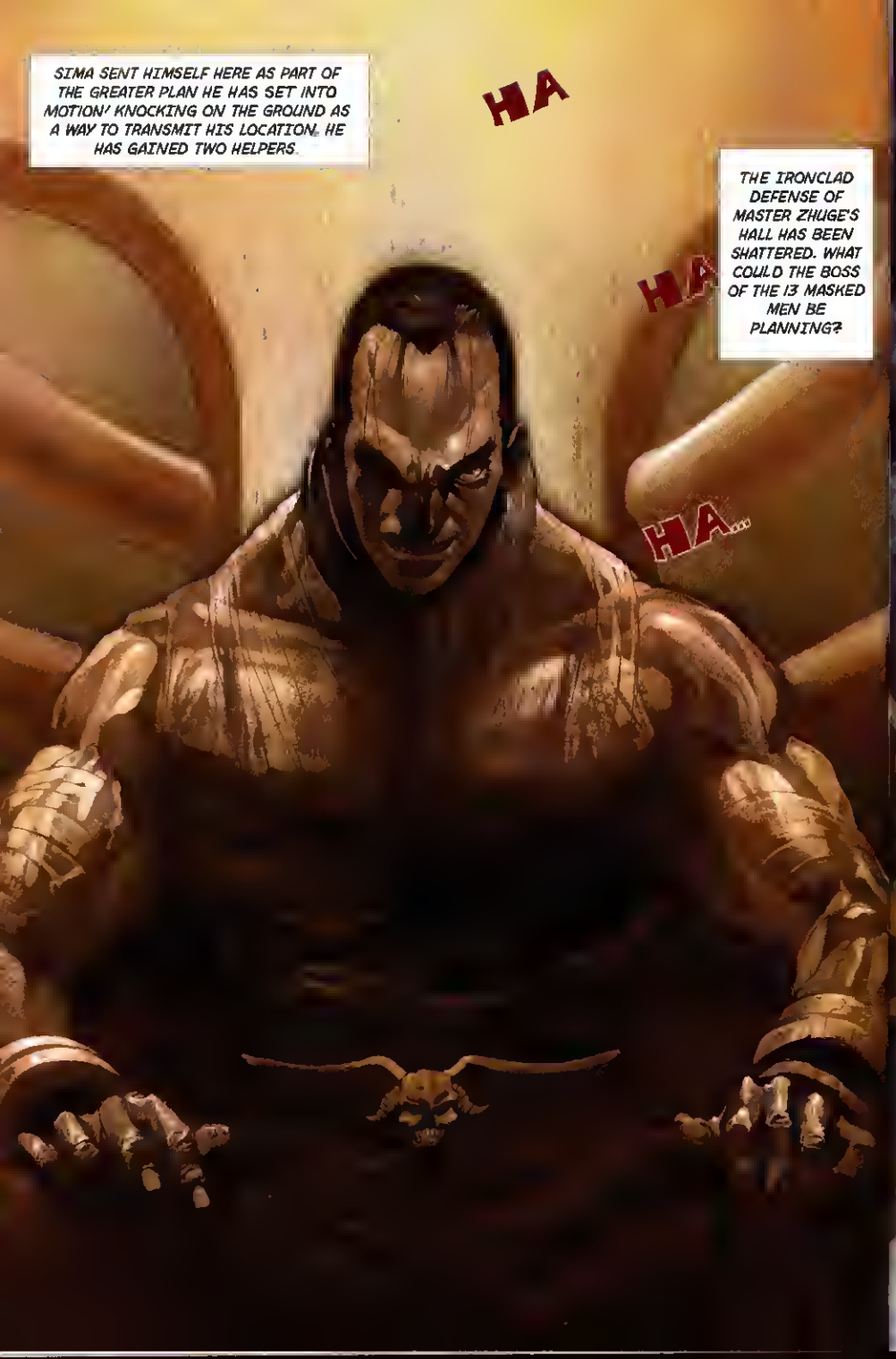
TKOOM






HELL IS DIRTIER THAN I THOUGHT. LUCKILY, I AM PREPARED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE TRAVELING WITH ME!


BLOOD PHOENIX
STOP TALKING IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
BUT...
EARTH WALKER


SIMA SENT HIMSELF HERE AS PART OF THE GREATER PLAN HE HAS SET INTO MOTION/ KNOCKING ON THE GROUND AS A WAY TO TRANSMIT HIS LOCATION. HE HAS GAINED TWO HELPERS.
HA
HA
HA...
THE IRONCLAD DEFENSE OF MASTER ZHUGE'S HALL HAS BEEN SHATTERED. WHAT COULD THE BOSS OF THE 13 MASKED MEN BE PLANNING?

WINE... I WISH I HAD SOME WINE, AH....

PLEASE SIRS, LET ME HAVE A CUP, I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KIND-NESS...

ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS I SHALL MEET MY END, I DON'T WANT TO GO WITH BITTERNESS IN MY HEART.. JUST LET ME HAVE ONE SIP, THAT IS ENOUGH. I WILL BE A CONTENT GHOST...

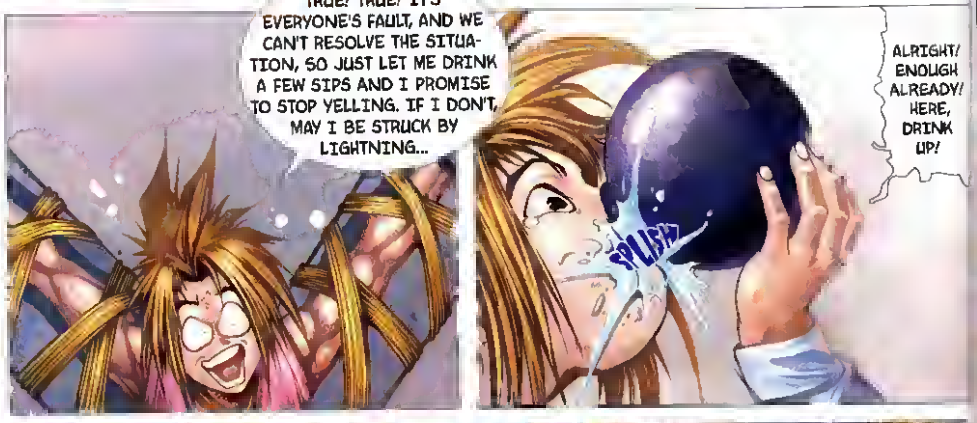
SHUT UP OR I'LL KILL YOU NOW!

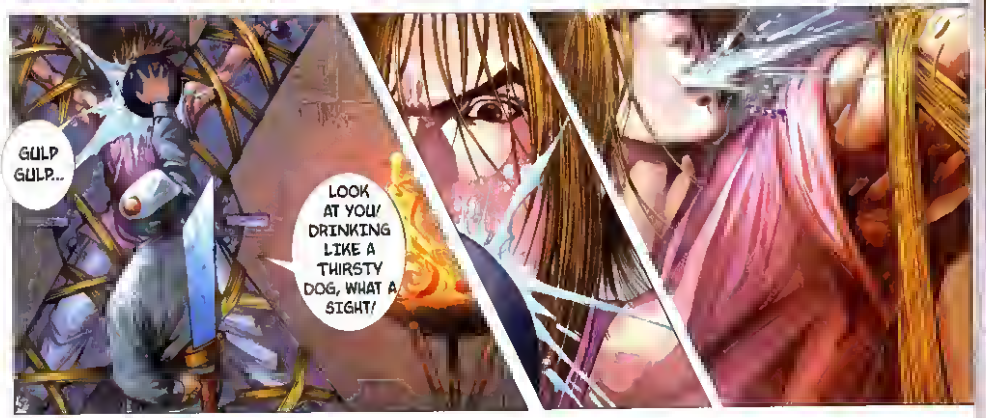
COUGH... COUGH COUGH...

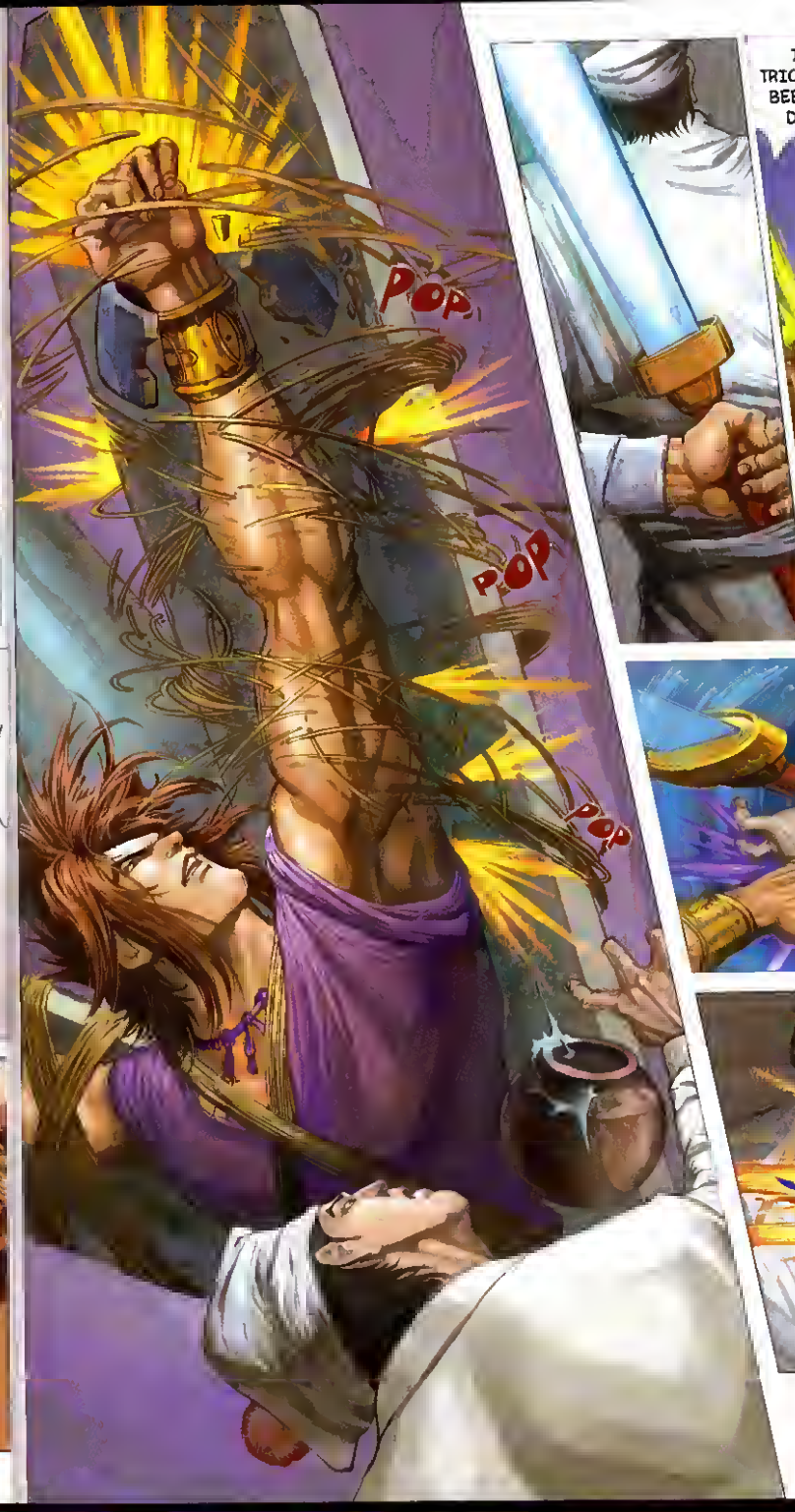
HE ASKED FOR IT!

SIR, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "A GOOD WINE CAN RAISE ONE'S SPIR-ITS." PLEASE JUST A SIP... DON'T BE SO CRUEL....
AH...

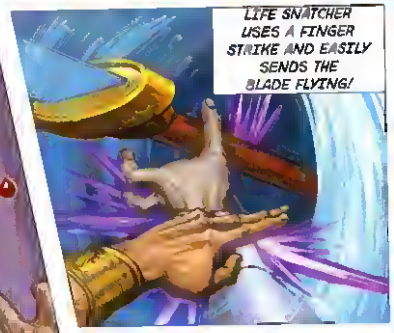
GODS! IS THIS GUY FOR REAL? HE'S BEEN BEGGING NONSTOP FOR OVER AN HOUR NOW HE'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!
WINE... WINE...
I WANT TO DRINK SOME WINE... WINE... WINE...
IT IS ALL YOUR STUPID IDEA. YOU SAID THIS WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE TO TORTURE THE CONSTABLE, BUT NOW YOU'VE GONE AND STIRRED UP HIS ADDICTION, IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

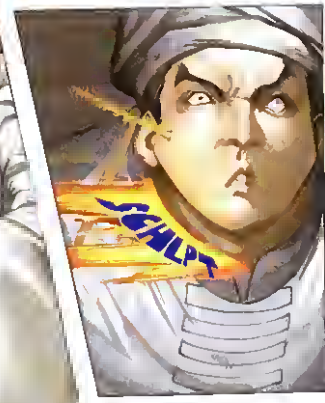

TRUE! TRUE! IT'S EVERYONE'S FAULT, AND WE CAN'T RESOLVE THE SITUATION, SO JUST LET ME DRINK A FEW SIPS AND I PROMISE TO STOP YELLING. IF I DON'T, MAY I BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING...
ALRIGHT! ENOUGH ALREADY! HERE, DRINK UP!
SPLISH


GULP GULP...
LOOK AT YOU! DRINKING LIKE A THIRSTY DOG, WHAT A SIGHT!


POP
POP
POP

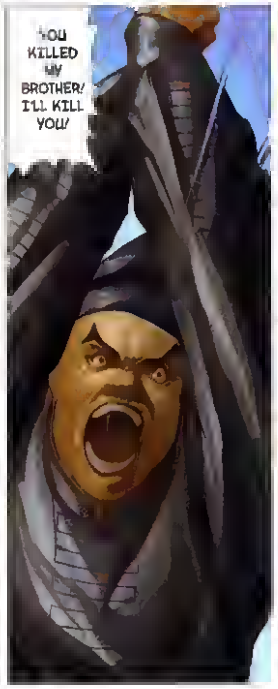
IT'S A TRICK, WE'VE BEEN HAD! DAMN!


LIFE SNATCHER USES A FINGER STRIKE AND EASILY SENDS THE BLADE FLYING!


SCHLPT

I WON'T DIE, SO YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO DIE IN MY PLACE!

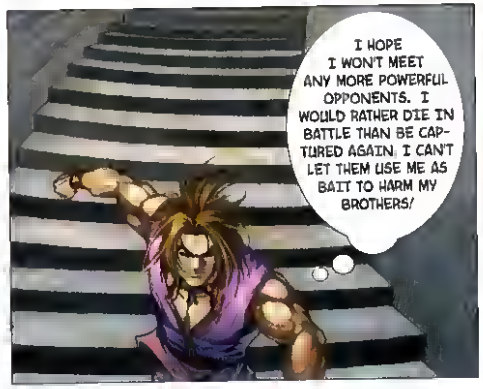
DON'T WORRY, WHILE NO ONE WOULD MISTAKE YOU TWO FOR GOOD PEOPLE, AT LEAST YOU'VE DONE ONE GOOD DEED BEFORE YOU DIED. THE GHOSTS OF HELL WILL LOOK KINDLY UPON YOU FOR THAT AT LEAST!
BUT REMEMBER ... NEVER TRUST A DRUNKARD!


YOU KILLED MY BROTHER! I'LL KILL YOU!

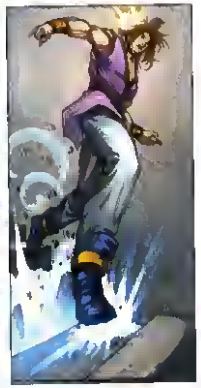
SHUNK

THUMP

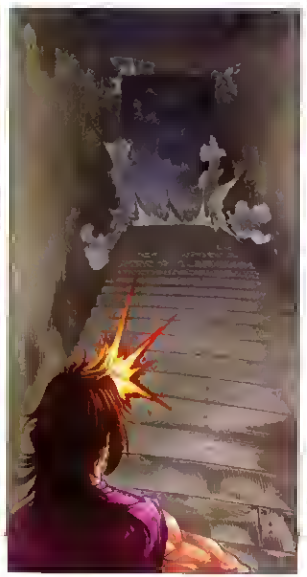
LIFE SNATCHER ONCE AGAIN SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPES HIS CAPTORS, BUT HE PERSEVERATES ON TRAP AWAITING HIS BROTHERS.


I HOPE I WON'T MEET ANY MORE POWERFUL OPPONENTS. I WOULD RATHER DIE IN BATTLE THAN BE CAPTURED AGAIN. I CAN'T LET THEM USE ME AS BAIT TO HARM MY BROTHERS!

LIFE SNATCHER DOES NOT KNOW THAT THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED HE THINKS THE TRAPS ARE TO BE SET OFF ABOVE HIM, WHERE HIS BROTHERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO BREAKTHROUGH

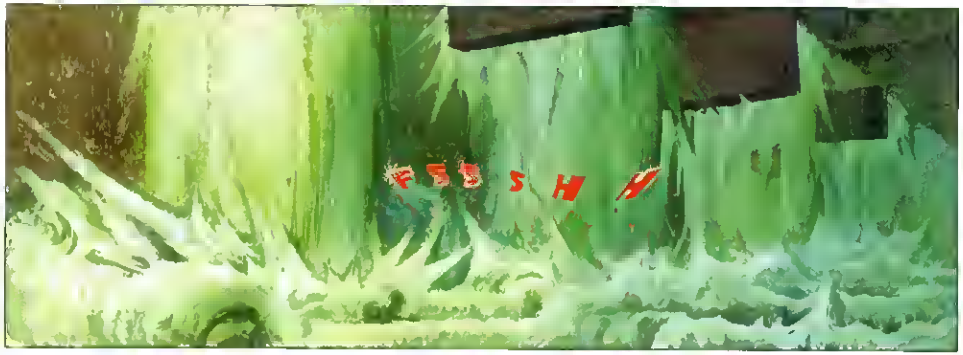


SHKOOM

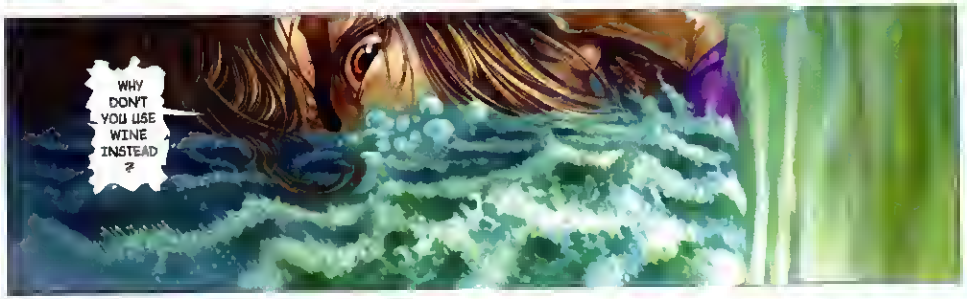


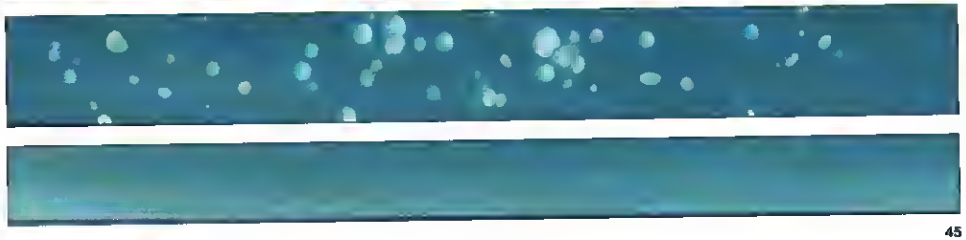
CAUGHT UNAWARES, LIFE SNATCHER FALLS INTO THE TRAP!
HSOOM

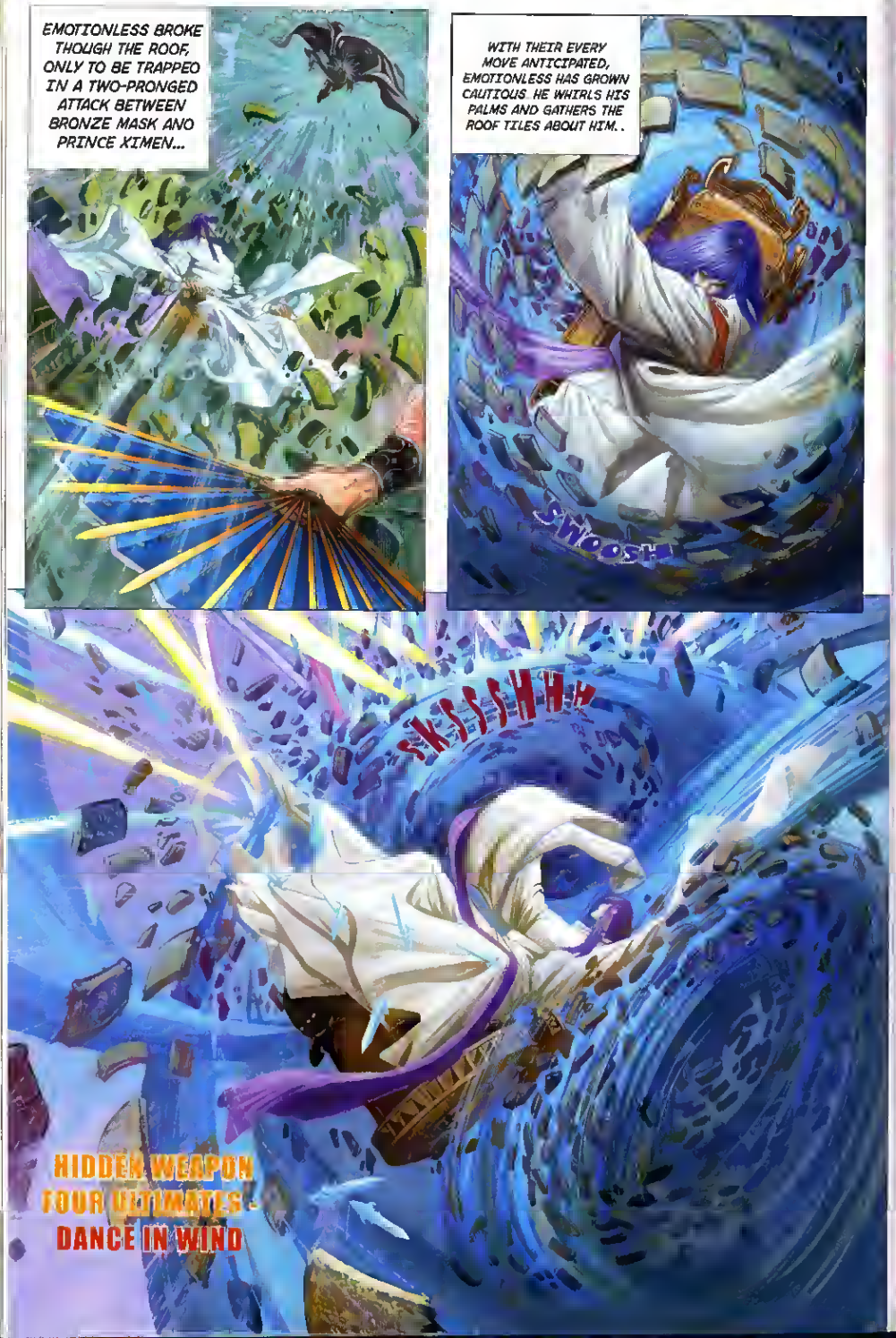
GODS... WHY MUST YOU TOY WITH ME SO? WHY DO YOU GIVE ME HOPE AND THEN SNATCH IT AWAY FROM ME EACH TIME...


FSSSHH

GODS... YOU ARE TOO CRUEL ... YOU WANT TO DROWN ME IN WATER ... WHY...

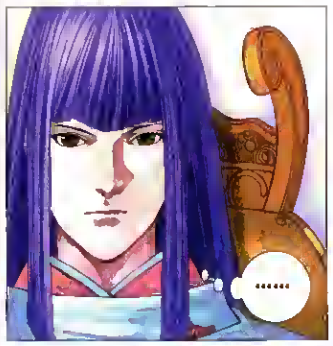

WHY DON'T YOU USE WINE INSTEAD ?




EMOTIONLESS BROKE THOUGH THE ROOF, ONLY TO BE TRAPPED IN A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK BETWEEN BRONZE MASK AND PRINCE KIMEN...
WITH THEIR EVERY MOVE ANTICIPATED, EMOTIONLESS HAS GROWN CAUTIOUS. HE WHIRLS HIS PALMS AND GATHERS THE ROOF TILES ABOUT HIM..
SWOOSH
SKSSSHH
HIDDEN WEAPON
FOUR ULTIMATES
DANCE IN WIND

EMOTIONLESS SPLITS HIS ATTACK IN TWO, ATTACKING AND DEFENDING AGAINST BOTH OPPONENTS AT ONCE!
KRSSSH
FWIP
HMPH!

BRONZE MASK AND PRINCE XIMEN ARE NO ORDINARY FIGHTERS! EMOTIONLESS KNOWS THAT HIS QUICK ATTACK HAS MERELY BOUGHT HIM SOME MUCH-NEEDED BREATHING ROOM!


.....

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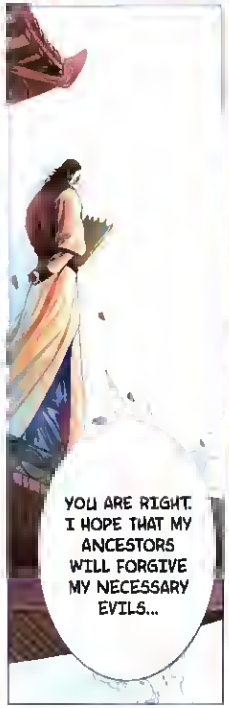
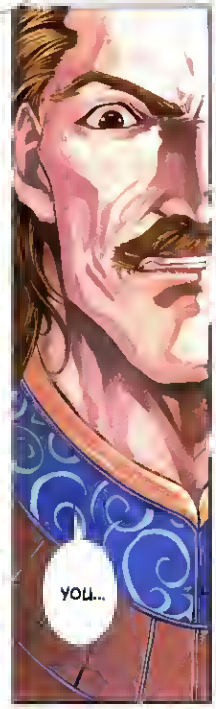
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET/ TOO BAD THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU WITNESS SUCH WONDER. ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN!

THE XIMEN CLAN WAS ONCE KNOWN AS A GREAT NOBLE HOUSE-HOLD. A TRUE PITY THAT IT IS RUINED IN YOUR HANDS!


YOU ARE RIGHT. I HOPE THAT MY ANCESTORS WILL FORGIVE MY NECESSARY EVILS...

WHAT NECESSARY EVILS! IT'S JUST YOUR GREED! YOU ARE JUST SELLING YOUR CONSCIENCE FOR MONEY! IT IS UNFORGIV ABLE!


YOU...

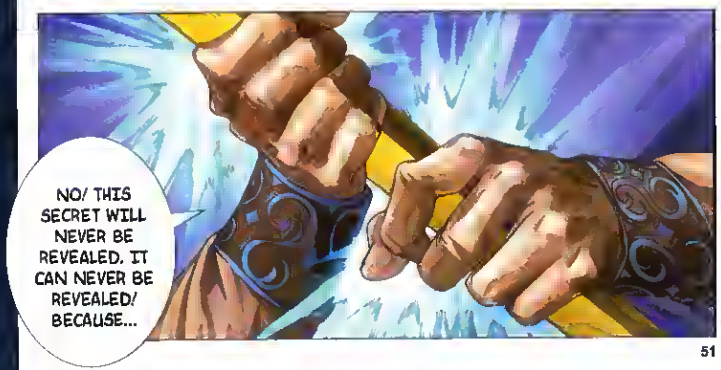
YOU HAVE BETRAYED YOURSELF FOR THIS CLAN, BUT YOUR CLAN HAS ALWAYS BETRAYED YOU!
YAYU IS STILL SO PERCEPTIVE, EVEN WHEN HE IS IN MORTAL DANGER. HE IS A GREAT CONSTABLE, AND A TRUE ASSET TO THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND.

THE CLAN HAS... BETRAYED ME?

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT AT THE HEIGHT OF YOUR CLAN'S POWER, YOU HAD THOUSAND OF SERVANTS AND WEALTH GALORE, BUT NOW...
THERE IS DUST EVERYWHERE. THE PAINT FADED. ANYONE CAN SEE THAT THE CLAN HAS FALLEN ON HARD TIMES. IT IS A MERE SHELL OF ITS FORMER GLORIOUS SELF!

YOU ARE RIGHT, THE WEALTH I THOUGHT WOULD LAST A GENERATION ALL DRIED UP ONE DAY. THAT DAY CAME A LOT SOONER THAN I ANTICIPATED!

TO MAINTAIN THE FACADE OF POWER AND WEALTH, YOU BECAME A KILLER BEHIND A MASK. BUT HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT THE WORLD WILL THINK OF YOUR CLAN ONCE YOUR IDENTITY IS DISCOVERED? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE XIMEN CLAN'S FAME AND REPUTATION? YOU WILL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK AND SHAME OF THE WHOLE WORLD!


NO! THIS SECRET WILL NEVER BE REVEALED. IT CAN NEVER BE REVEALED! BECAUSE...

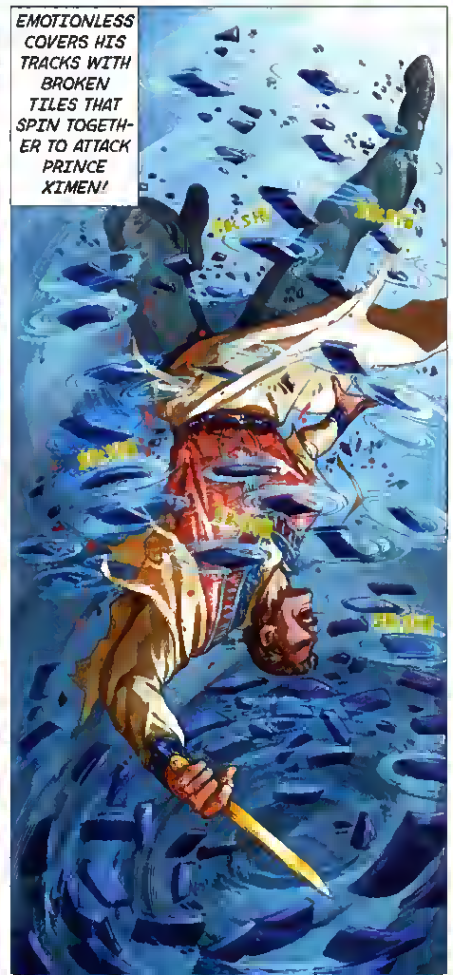
YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
GHOST GOD
DESTRUCTION FAN
NINE HEATH
NINE LIVES
SOUL BREAK

YAN SEEMS HESITANT TO ATTACK, I MUST TAKE THIS CHANCE TO GET RID OF PRINCE XIMEN FIRST, AND THEN EVERYTHING WILL BECOME MUCH SIMPLER!

WOOHS

KSSHH

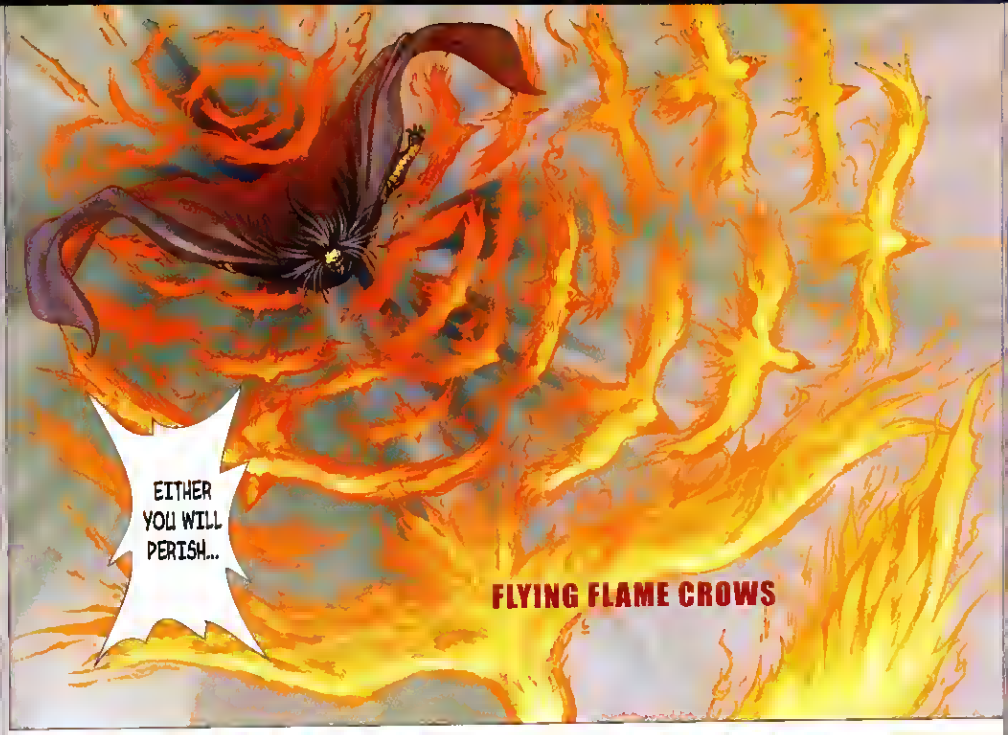
UP!


EMOTIONLESS COVERS HIS TRACKS WITH BROKEN TILES THAT SPIN TOGETHER TO ATTACK PRINCE XIMEN!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO KILL HIM!

SWOOSH
PANG!
PANG!
PANG!
EMOTIONLESS, NOW IT IS MY TURN TO DEFEAT YOU!
EXPLOSIVE CONFUSION STARS
NO WAY TO HEAVEN
FWOOSH
DESTINY IS IMMUTABLE. IN THE END YOU AND I REMAIN ENEMIES.
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED, I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT REALITY, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THEN I WILL HAVE TO TRULY BECOME-EMOTION-LESS!

SKSSSHH
FWOOM


EITHER YOU WILL PERISH...
FLYING FLAME CROWS

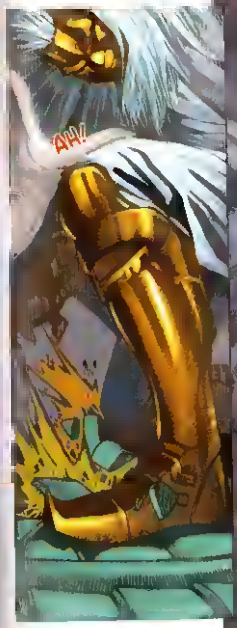
GREAT PEACOCK SOAR
OR I WILL DIE!

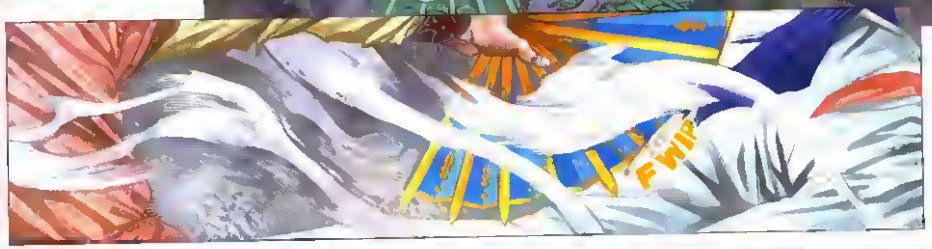
FLYING FLAME CROWS IS A POWERFUL ATTACK, ONE BLOW FOLLOWING ANOTHER. PEACOCK SOAR IS AN IMPENETRABLE DEFENSIVE STANCE WITH NO GAPS. THE TWO GREAT HIDDEN WEAPONS MASTER FIGHT WITH EVERY OUNCE OF SKILL AND POWER THEY POSSESS. THE SKY IS FILLED WITH A BREATH-TAKING VIEW OF THEIR BATTLE.
SKRA-KOOOM

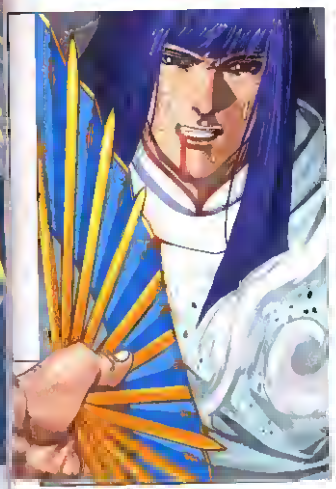
WOOSH
AH!
YAN, YOU ARE NOT THE TRUE BRONZE MASK AND HAVE LIMITS TO YOUR ENDURANCE. YOU HAVE ALREADY FORCED YOURSELF TO GO BEYOND YOUR BODY'S LIMITS TO INCREASE POWER IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. ULTIMATELY, YOUR TECHNIQUE WILL NOT LAST LONG...
EMOTIONLESS, HOW COULD YOU DEFEAT ME WITH THAT PUNY STANCE!
AFTER THAT BARRAGE, SHE WILL NEED TIME TO RECOVER. I MUST RENDER HER UNCONSCIOUS AND CONVINCE HER THAT WE NEEDN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS DUEL!

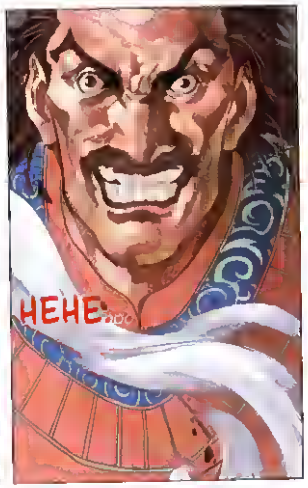
THE YING YANG FAN CAUSES ONE TO LOSE ALL SENSE OF SPACE AND TIME. I CAN'T EVEN FEEL HIS PRESENCE, THIS IS BAD...
EMOTIONLESS HAS LOST HIS CHANCE ALONG HIS SENSES. HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE PRINCE XIMEN WILL LAUNCH THE NEXT ATTACK. HIS SITUATION SEEMS DIRE!
MY YING YANG FAN WILL CHOP YOU INTO PIECES!
SORRY, BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT...
BECAUSE... YOU AND I...
WILL PERISH TOGETHER!

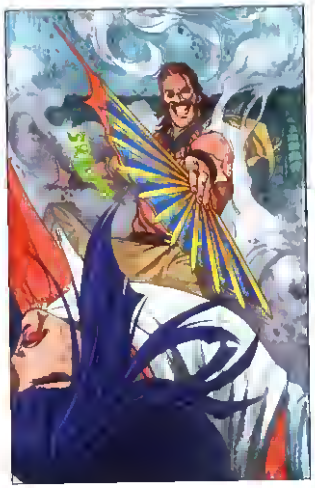
CLOUD CHAIR
<<PROJECTILE ARRAY>>
BIRTH OF THE FIRE PHOENIX
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM


AH!


FWIP



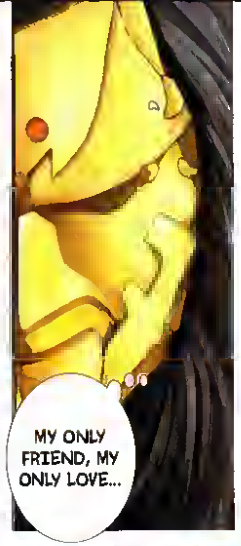

HEHE

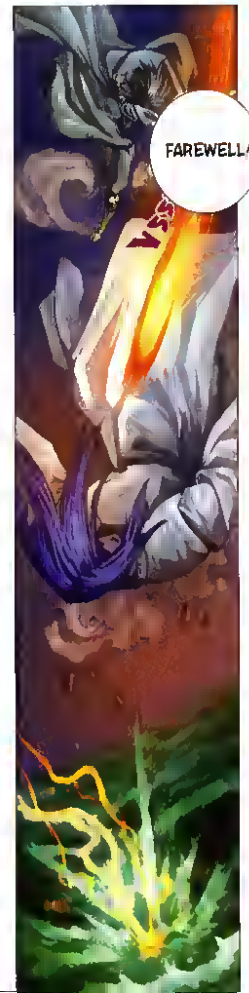


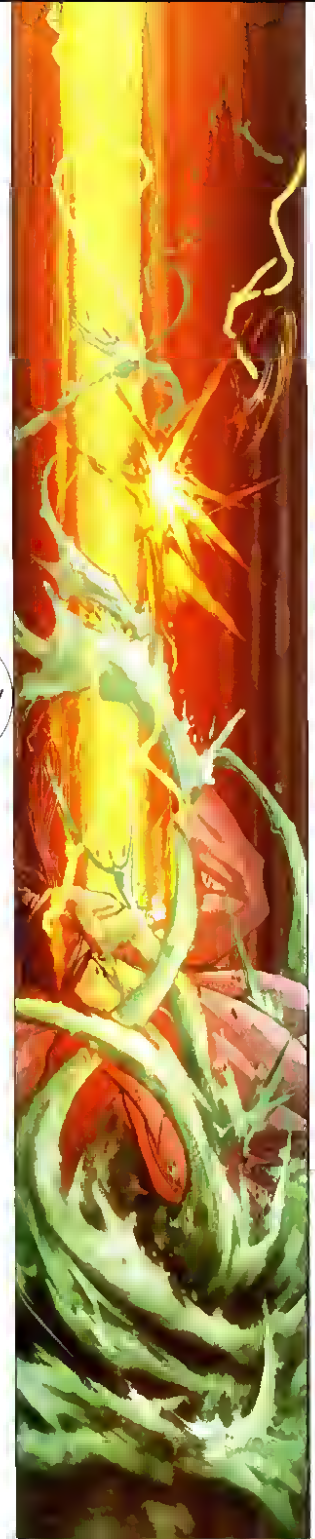
KRACK!

SMASH

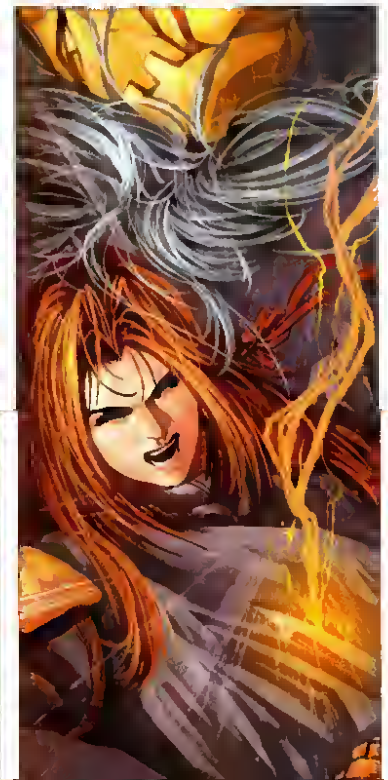
YAYU, PLEASE FORGIVE ME. MY STEPFATHER WAS SO KIND TO ME, THAT I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY HIM. I HAVE MADE MY DECISION...


MY ONLY FRIEND, MY ONLY LOVE...


FAREWELL!



ZKOOM



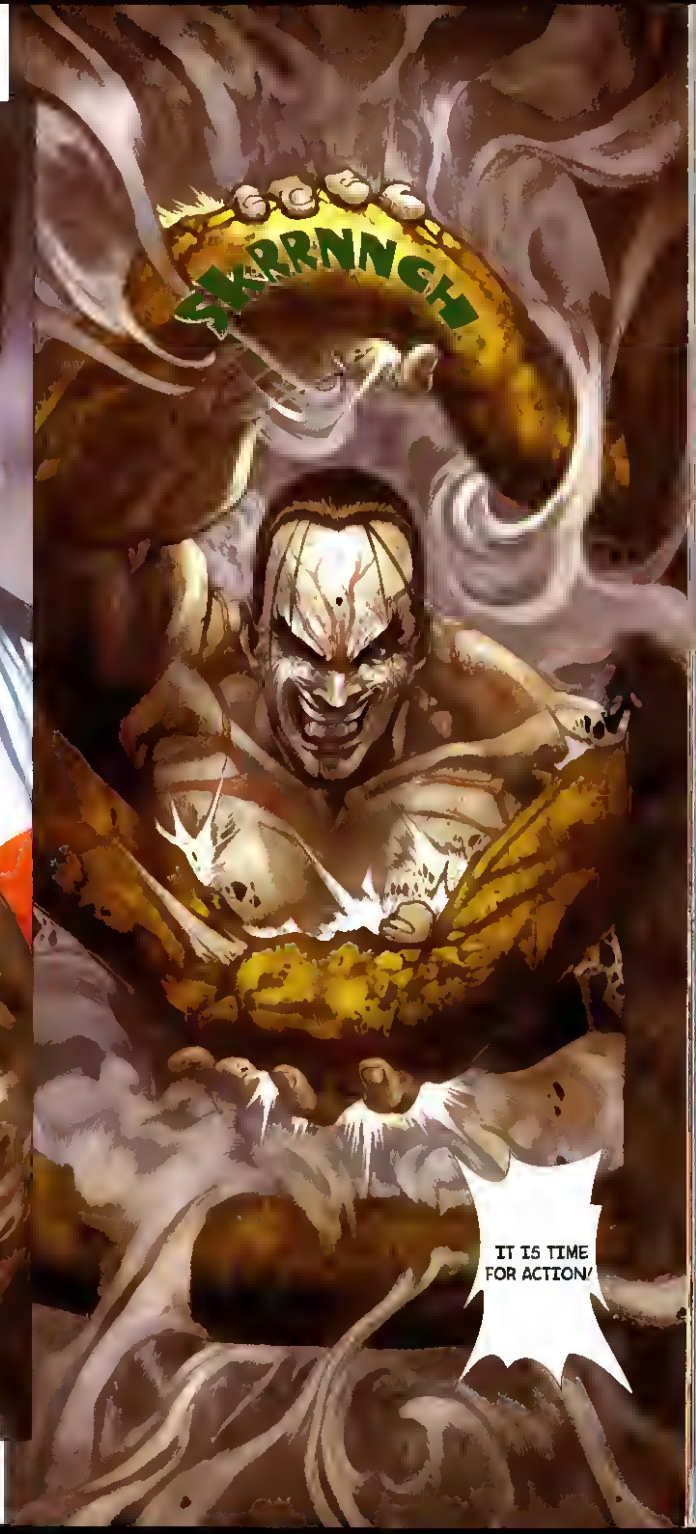
SHOULDN'T HE BE ENTANGLED IN A FIGHT BENEATH THE LAKE?
IRON HANDS
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

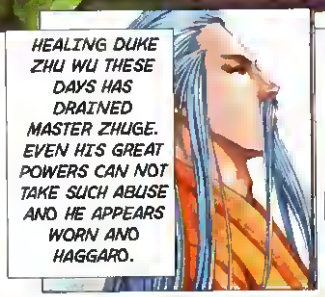
BANG
BANG
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS STUPID CAGE IS MADE OUT OF, BUT EVEN MY BLADES ARE USELESS AGAINST IT!
WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, WE CAN'T FAIL NOW!
THIS CAGE IS INCREDIBLY WELL DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED; WE WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN IT SO EASILY. WE MUST SEARCH AROUND FOR THE MECHANISM TO UNLOCK THIS CAGE!
THERE IS NO NEED!

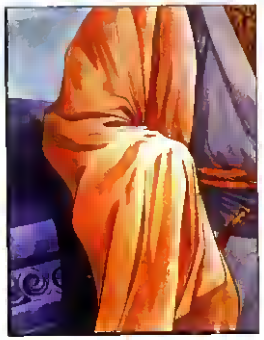
THE GREAT GOLDEN PILL IS INCREDIBLE. IT CAN REVIVE THE DEAD MY WOUNDS HAVE ALREADY HEALED 90%. I HAVE RECOVERED!

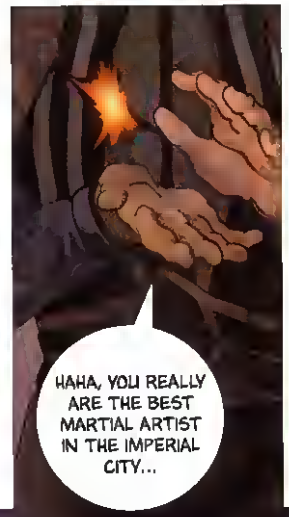
THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN THIS WORLD I CAN NOT SOLVE WITH MY STRENGTH!

HE REALLY IS A... MONSTER...!

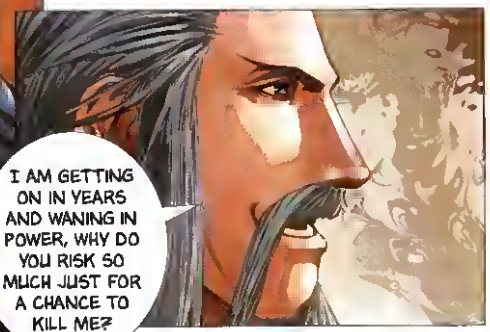

SKRRNNGH
IT IS TIME FOR ACTION!


HEALING DUKE ZHU WU THESE DAYS HAS DRAINED MASTER ZHUGE. EVEN HIS GREAT POWERS CAN NOT TAKE SUCH ABUSE AND HE APPEARS WORN AND HAGGARD.





I'M GOING TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST HERE, YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE I TRULY ADMIRE, SO I AM NOT GOING TO RESORT TO ANY UNDERHANDED TRICKS TO KILL YOU!

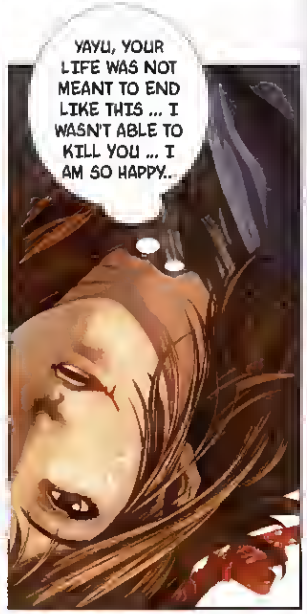


THE WISE MASTER ZHUGE HAS ALREADY ACCESSED THE SITUATION, AND UNDERSTANDS SIMA'S PURPOSE.

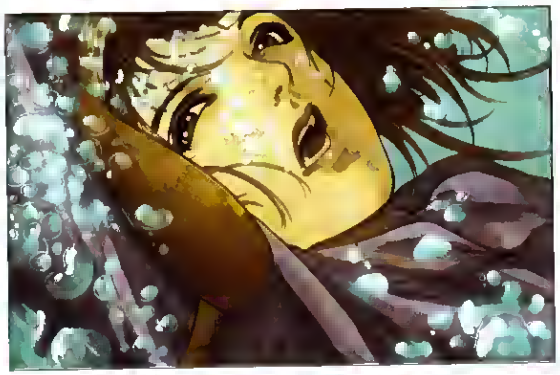
WELL, THE REASON IS QUITE SIMPLE ACTUALLY. BECAUSE YOU ARE THE HARDEST OPPONENT TO TAKE ON, YOU ARE OUR GANG'S SECRET - FINAL TARGET!
MASTER ZHUGE IS THE FINAL TARGET? HIS POWERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GREATLY DIMINISHED FROM HEALING THE DUKE HOW WILL HE FARE AGAINST THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THESE 3 GREAT KILLERS?

MY BROTHERS...
FAREWELL!

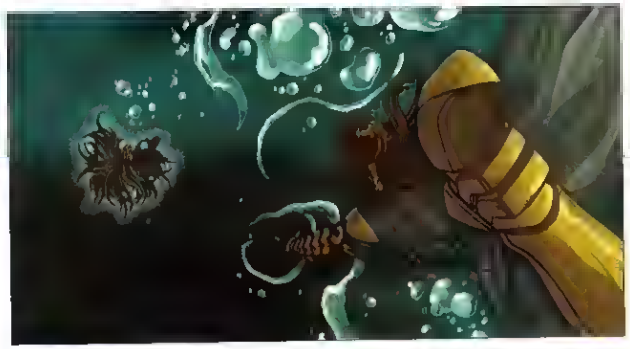
A FIST ROSE FROM THE WATERS AND KNOCKED ASIDE YAN AND HER MOON CHASING BLADES AT THE LAST INSTANT, SAVING EMOTION-LESS. IRON HANDS HAS ARRIVED!


YAYU, YOUR LIFE WAS NOT MEANT TO END LIKE THIS ... I WASN'T ABLE TO KILL YOU ... I AM SO HAPPY..

RELIEVED THAT SHE COULD NOT KILL HER FRIEND. LOST IN HER CON-FLICTING EMOTIONS. YAN FALLS INTO THE WATERS
SPLOOSH



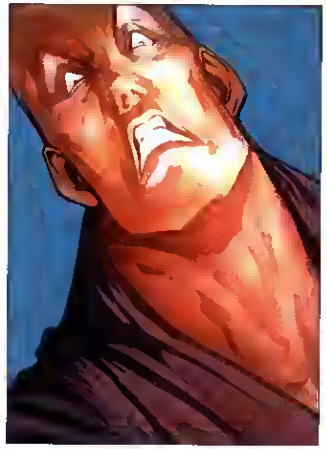
AH, MY STEPFATHER'S MASK...



THE ONLY THINGS I HAVE OF MY STEPFATHER ARE THESE MOON CHASING BLADES AND HIS MASKS. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN DESTROYED NOW...
IS THIS FATE...??

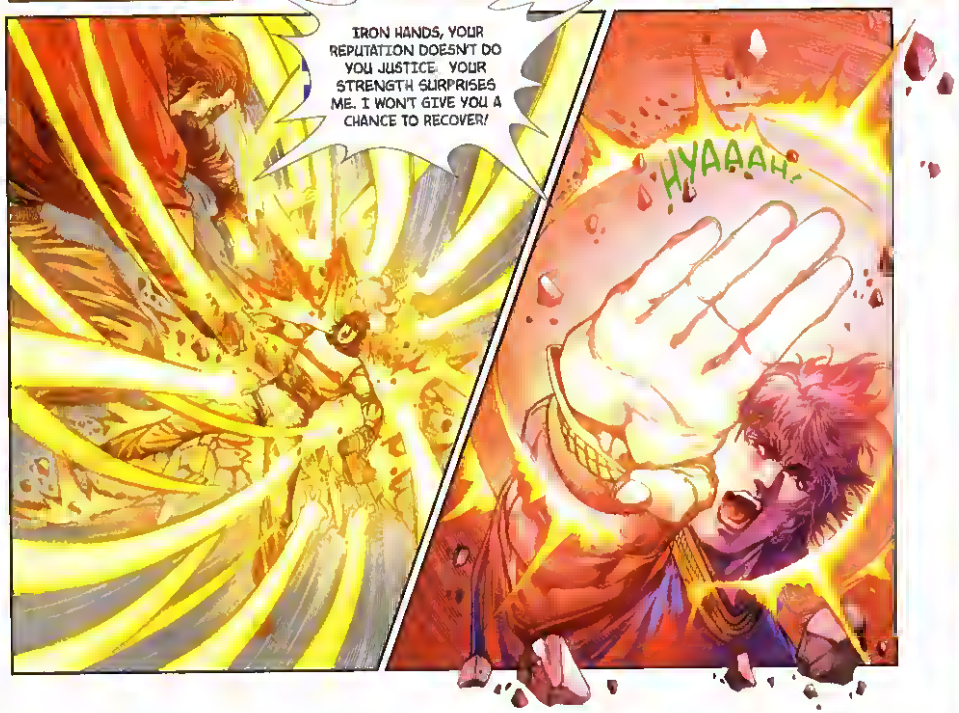
IRON HANDS SHOULD STILL BE TRAPPED FIGHTING BENEATH THE LAKE. HOW DID HE ARRIVE IN TIME TO SAVE EMOTION-LESS?

EACH CLAIM HALF THE VICTORY
KILL HIM!
IRON HANDS WAS ABOUT TO BE SLICED IN HALF BY DUGU WEI...
NINE-DEMONS SWORD STYLE - KNIFE SHADOW PEARL



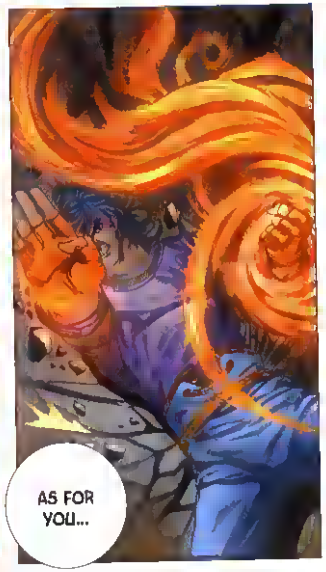
KILLING CURE STANCE
FULL POWER
P-KLANG!

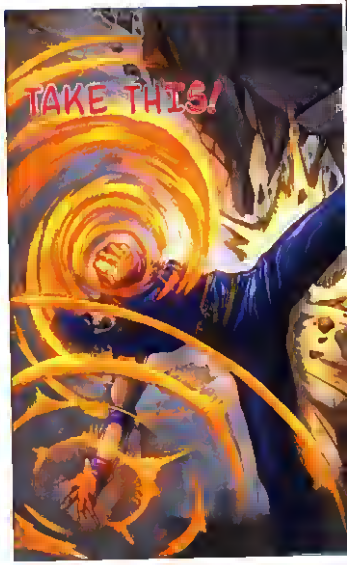
I CAN'T CUT OFF HIS ARMS WITH MY FULL STRENGTH? UNBELIEVABLE!
THOOM!


IRON HANDS, YOUR REPUTATION DOESN'T DO YOU JUSTICE. YOUR STRENGTH SURPRISES ME. I WON'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO RECOVER!
HYAAAH!

BARE HANDS
POWER FIST
BARE WALL
IRON FENCE

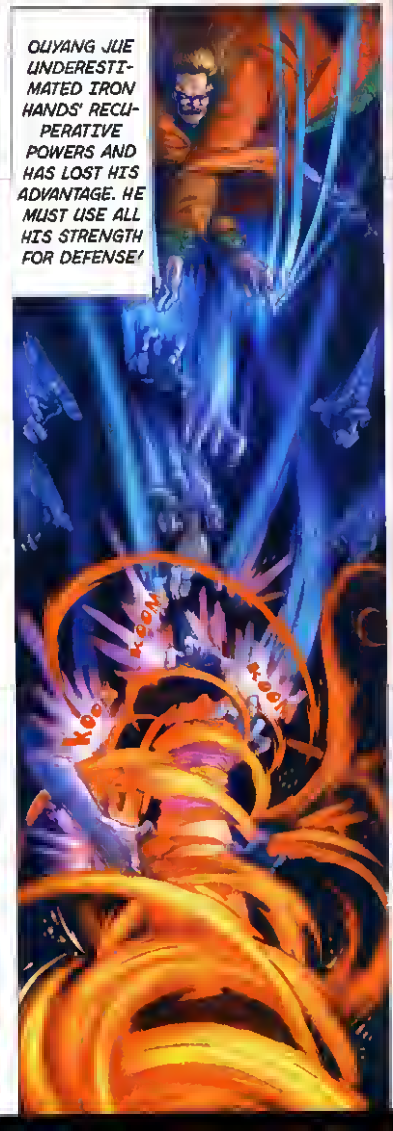
YOU WILL REGRET THIS!


AS FOR YOU...


TAKE THIS!

IRON HANDS
POWER FIST
TEMPER FIRE
BURNING FIST

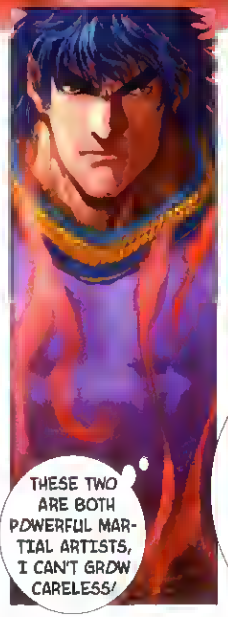
HE RECOVERED SO QUICKLY! I HAVE TO END THIS NOW!


OUYANG JUE UNDERESTIMATED IRON HANDS' RECUPERATIVE POWERS AND HAS LOST HIS ADVANTAGE. HE MUST USE ALL HIS STRENGTH FOR DEFENSE!
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM

SHA-KOOOM
BUT HOW COULD OUYANG JUE COMPETE WITH IRON HANDS' ATTACKING POWER!

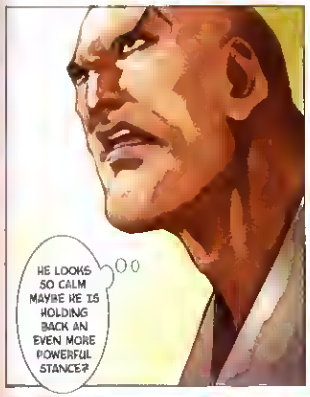
KRACK!
HUFF..
HUFF..

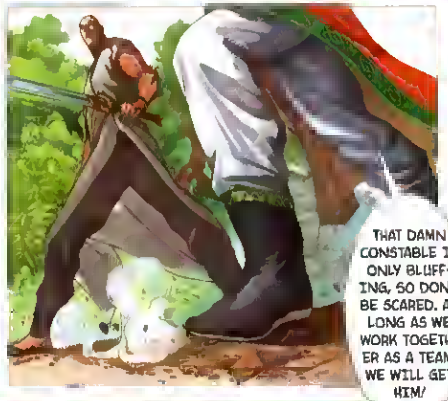
IRON HANDS' SWEAT FALLS LIKE A TORRENT OF RAIN. WITH HEAVY BREATHING, HIS BODY IS ENGULFED IN CHI. HE IS USING THE KILLING CURE STANCE TO RECOVER.
DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, A GREAT SMITH COMBINED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF METAL WORKING WITH AN INTERNAL MARTIAL ART STYLE TO CREATE THIS STANCE. THE USER'S CHI BURNS HOT AS FLAMES AND HIS MUSCLES BECOME TOUGH AS METAL!
KILLING CURE STANCE

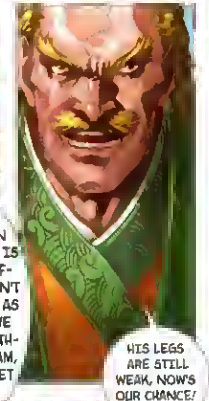

THESE TWO ARE BOTH POWERFUL MARTIAL ARTISTS, I CAN'T GROW CARELESS!

LUCKILY MY LEGS DID NOT SUSTAIN ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE. I CAN MANAGE TO KEEP MYSELF UP, BUT MY STRENGTH IS WANING. I HAVE TO FINISH THESE TWO QUICKLY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT POWER YOU SHOWED? WHY DO YOU STOP NOW? COME AND BATTLE ANOTHER 300 ROUNDS WITH US!


HE LOOKS SO CALM MAYBE HE IS HOLDING BACK AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL STANCE?


THAT DAMN CONSTABLE IS ONLY BLUFFING, SO DON'T BE SCARED. AS LONG AS WE WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, WE WILL GET HIM!


HIS LEGS ARE STILL WEAK, NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

IRON SWING
SILVER HOOK

IT IS A TIE WITH EACH SIDE PRESSING HARD, BUT SLOWLY, SWEAT BEGINS TRICKLING DOWN FROM IRON HANDS' BROWS!

ONE ON ONE, I COULD EASILY DEFEAT THEM, BUT TWO ON ONE— TO GAIN VICTORY, I MUST TAKE A RISK...

THE SKINNY ONE SEEMS FIERCE, BUT HIS ATTACKS LACK POWER. HE MUST BE HOLDING BACK SOME FOR SELF-DEFENSE AFTER MY DISPLAY OF POWER EARLIER...

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

IF I HAVE TO DIE, THEN I AM TAKING ONE OF YOU WITH ME!

10 MILES SHOCK THUNDER

DUGU WEI RESERVED SOME OF HIS STRENGTH, BUT IRON HANDS FISTS ARE STRONGER THAN HE EVER DREAMED!

THOOM

I HAVE TO KILL ONE OF THEM FIRST!

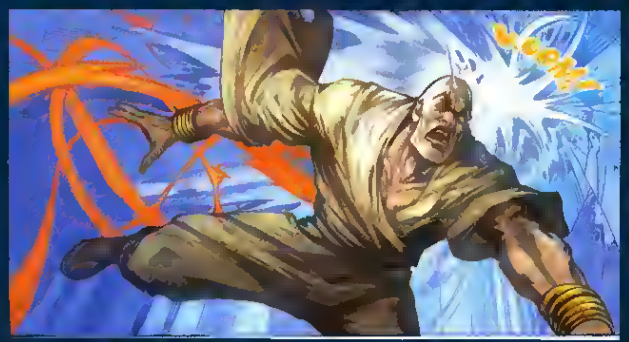
WANT TO ESCAPE, THINK AGAIN!

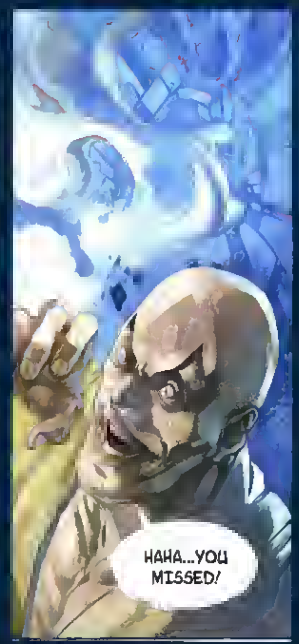
IRON HANDS KNEW THAT OUYANG JUE WOULD ATTACK HIS EXPOSED BACK, SO HE CONTINUES TO CIRCULATE HIS FIERY HOT CHI!

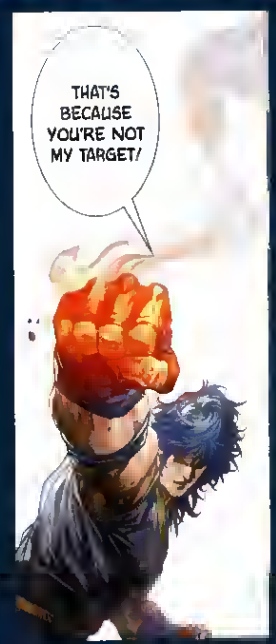
KRCH

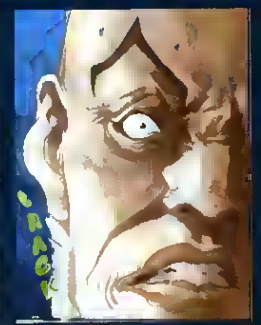
PSH

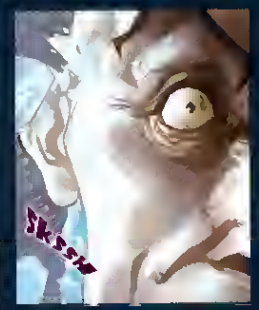
TEMPER FIRE BURNING FIST

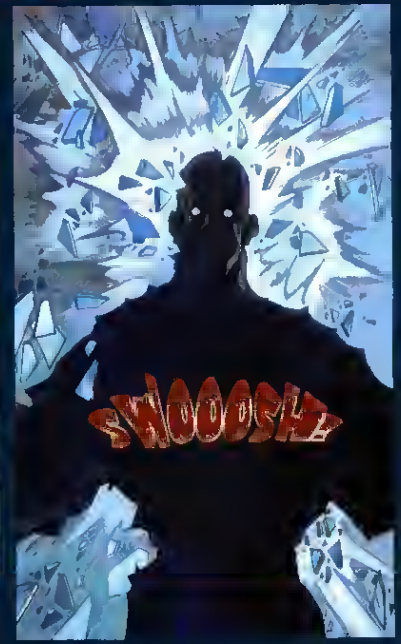




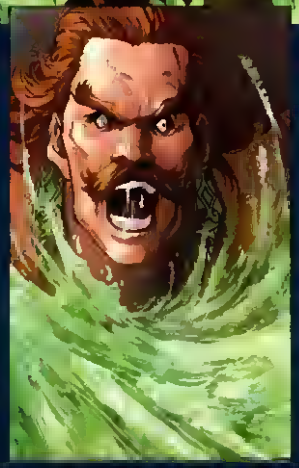


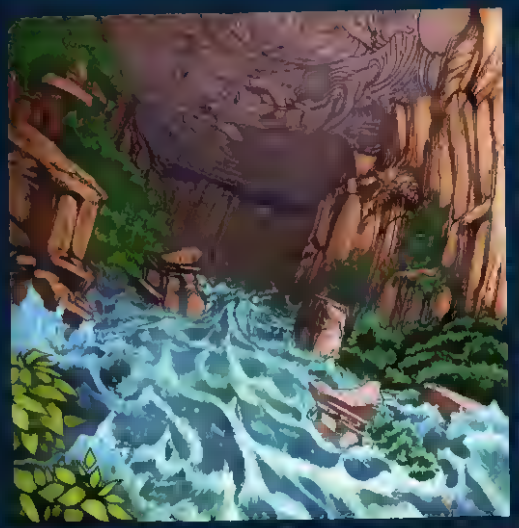


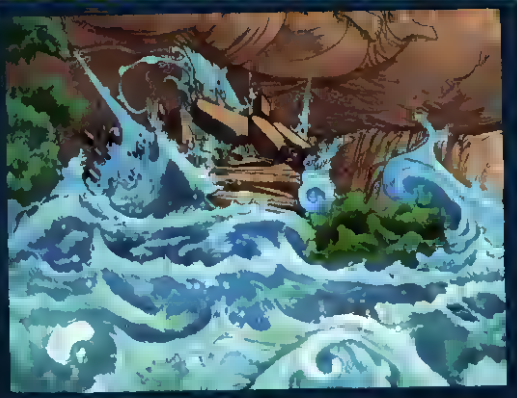


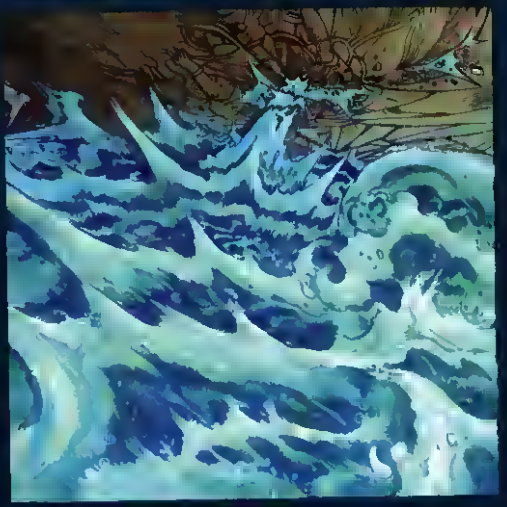


DUGU WEI DISCOVERS TOO LATE IRON HANDS' TRUE INTENTIONS. THE CRYSTAL WALL IS SHATTERED BY THE POWER OF IRON HANDS' FIST. THE BROKEN SHARDS OF CRYSTAL WITH THE FORCE OF THE RAGING LAKE STAB AND SHRED DUGU WEI'S BODY!



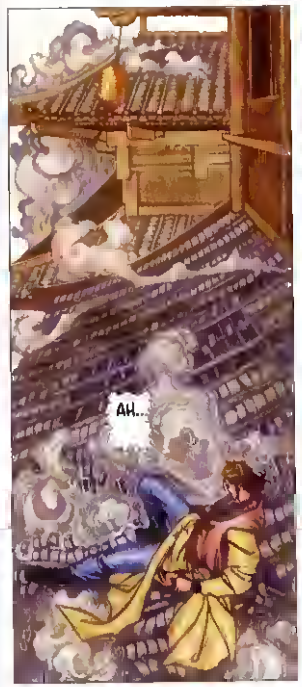




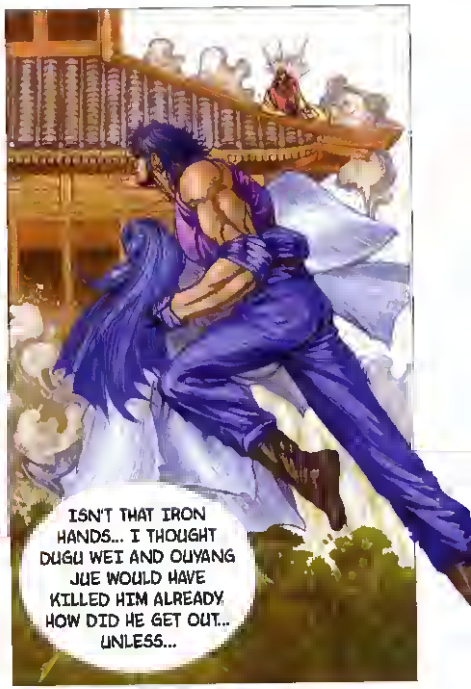


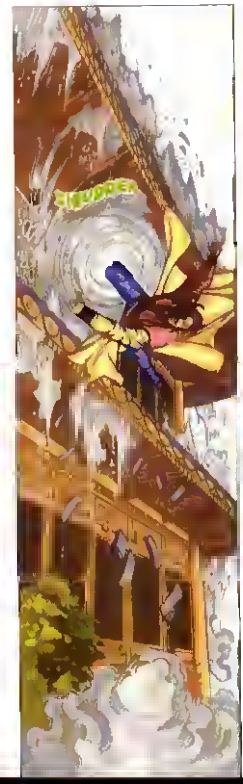
WITHOUT THE WALL TO HOLD BACK THE LAKE, WATER INSTANTLY FILLS UP THE GRAND UNDERGROUND PALACE. IT WILL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN!

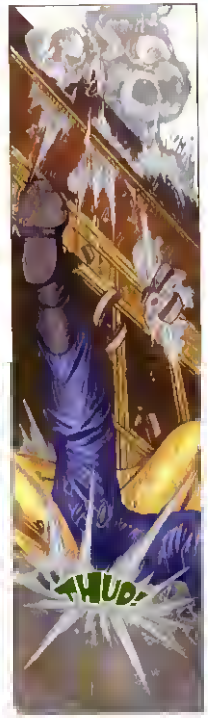
I BEST FIND BIG BROTHER AND TOGETHER WE WILL RESCUE 3RD BROTHER...
WHEN IRON HANDS RESCUED EMOTIONLESS. THE GRAVELY WOUNDED YAN...
KKOO
VSSS

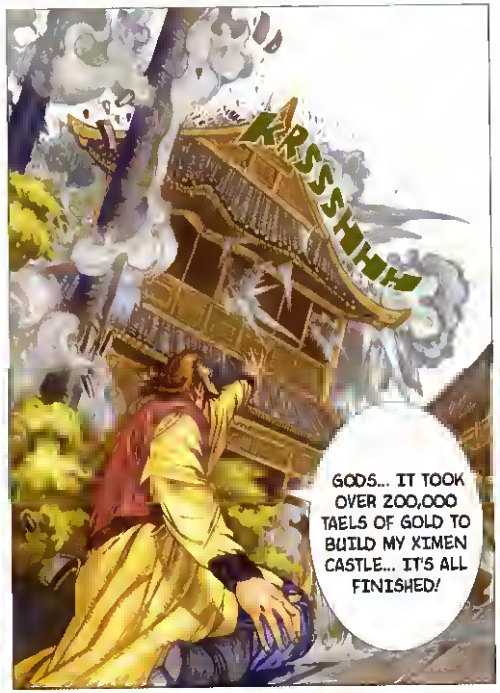

AH...

...WHAT?


ISN'T THAT IRON HANDS... I THOUGHT DUGU WEI AND OUYANG JUE WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM ALREADY. HOW DID HE GET OUT... UNLESS...


THUDDER


THUD!


KRSSHHH
GODS... IT TOOK OVER 200,000 TAELS OF GOLD TO BUILD MY XIMEN CASTLE... IT'S ALL FINISHED!

THE FORCE OF THE ENSUING TIDAL WAVE WASHED AWAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE CASTLE, AND SWEPT AWAY THE MAGNIFICENT XIMEN PALACE...
KRSH-KOOM!
THE SECRET PALACE BENEATH THE LAKE WATERS NOT ONLY CONTAINED THE MOST VALUABLE OF XIMEN'S TREASURES. BUT WAS ALSO A FOCAL POINT FOR ALL TRAP TRIGGERS. WITH THE LOSS OF THE PALACE, THE LAKE WATER LOST ITS EQUILIBRIUM AND THE ANCIENT PALACE WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED!
2ND BROTHER...
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE. WE STILL HAVE TO RESCUE 3RD BROTHER...
BEFORE IRON HANDS COULD FINISH, BLOOD GUSHES FROM HIS MOUTH AND HE IS WRACKED WITH COUGHS. AFTER AN INTENSE BATTLE COMBINED WITH USING A FULL POWERED STRIKE TO SAVE EMOTIONLESS, IRON HANDS IS AT HIS LIMIT.

HEHE, LIFE SNATCHER IS IMPRISONED IN THE LOWEST LEVELS OF THE UNDERGROUND PALACE. HE HAS ALREADY DROWNED BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE TO RESCUE HIM FROM HELL NOW!
WHAT?!
YOU LOOK SURPRISED. DON'T WORRY, LIFE SNATCHER WAS JUST THE FIRST. I GUARANTEE THAT I WILL HELP YOU SEE HIM SOON.. IN HELL!
OUYANG JUE'S CONFIDENCE IS NOT FEIGNED. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT ANY INJURIES. HE HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWERS TO TAKE CARE OF TWO WOUNDED CONSTABLES!
LOOKS LIKE THE BRONZE MASK IS ALSO FINISHED PRINCE XIMEN. THE VICTORY AND SPOILS NOW BELONG TO US!
KARMA... THIS IS KARMA! TO PROTECT THE XIMEN HOUSE, I HAVE TRADED AWAY MY SOUL, DONE DEEDS AGAINST MY CONSCIENCE. NOW IN THE END, I TASTE THE BITTER FRUIT I HAVE SOWN. I HAVE RUINED OUR GREAT HOUSE...
IT'S OVER! IT'S ALL OVER... HOW CAN I FACE MY ANCESTORS... I HAVE DONE THIS TO MYSELF... HAHA...
DAMN! WHY DOES HE HAVE TO GO ALL CRAZY NOW!

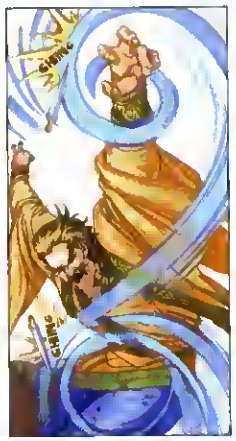
BIG BROTHER, WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT FOR ANOTHER BATTLE?
I HAVE TO BE ALL RIGHT, WE CAN'T GIVE UP NO MATTER WHAT. EVEN IF WE CANNOT SAVE 3RD BROTHER, WE WILL AVENGE HIS DEATH!

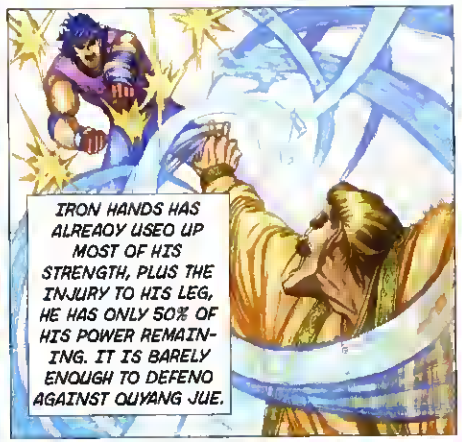
THIS PLACE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER. I DON'T CARE ABOUT PRINCE XIMEN ANYWAYS, I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS FIRST!

3RD BROTHER, BLESS US FROM HEAVEN!

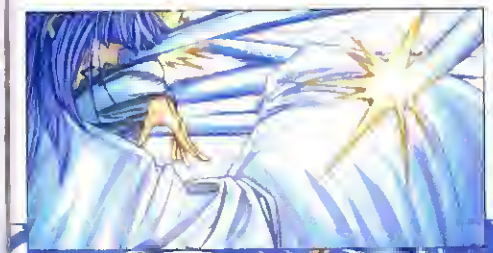
DAMN CONSTABLES, THIS WILL BE YOUR END!

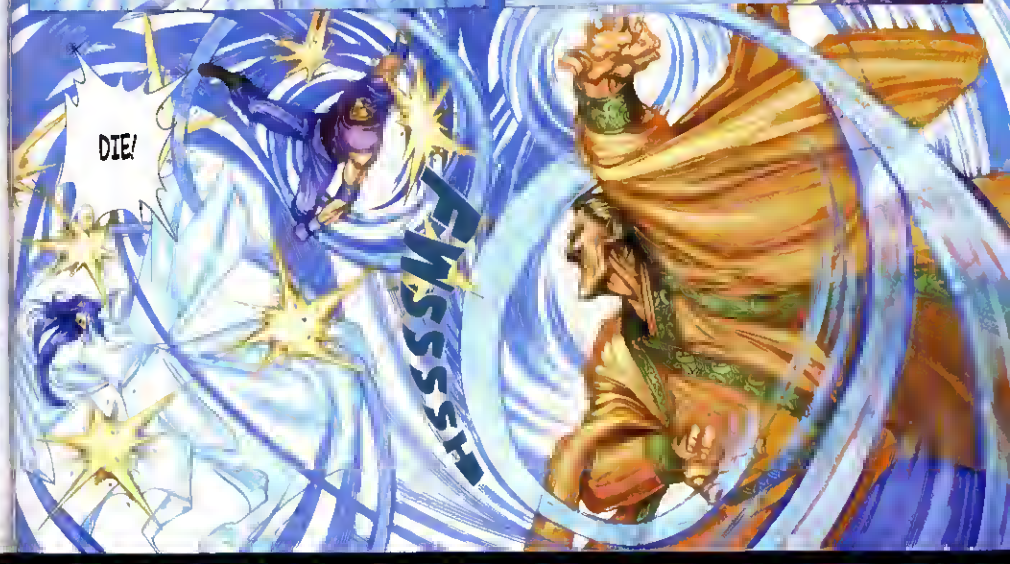
EMOTIONLESS' INJURIES GREATLY REDUCE THE SPEED AND POWER OF HIS ATTACKS!


SWING
SWING


IRON HANDS HAS ALREADY USED UP MOST OF HIS STRENGTH, PLUS THE INJURY TO HIS LEG, HE HAS ONLY 50% OF HIS POWER REMAINING. IT IS BARELY ENOUGH TO DEFEND AGAINST OUYANG JUE.

HA, THEY ARE BOTH WOUNDED, I CAN DEFEAT THEM BOTH...

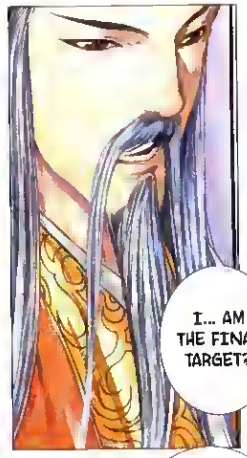



DIE!
FSSSSH

IT'S FINISHED.. THE HUNDRED YEAR LEGACY OF MY GREAT HOUSE... I HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED IT. IT IS MY OWN DOING .. KARMA..
HAHA
THOK
YOU ARE THE WORST ONE! I WILL KILL YOU FIRST!
DESPITE HIS WOUNDS, IRON HANDS MANAGES TO DODGE THE ATTACK AT THE LAST SECOND AND EVEN RETURNS A BLOW!
BUT ALAS WITH NO POWER LEFT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO INJURE OUYANG JUE!
SKSSH
GIVE UP ALREADY!
FWSSH
OUYANG SOME OF THAT IS MINE. DON'T TAKE THE GLORY ALL FOR YOURSELF!
OLD MAN LEN... WHEN OID YOU BECOME A GIRL?!
BRONZE MASK LEN LIUPING OIED ALREAOY. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, I CAN HELP YOU!

UNPREPARED FOR THE SUDDEN ATTACK, ONE OF THE DARTS TAKE OUT OUYANG'S EYE!
DAMN! HOW DARE YOU ATTACK ME, I WILL KILL YOU!
YAN!

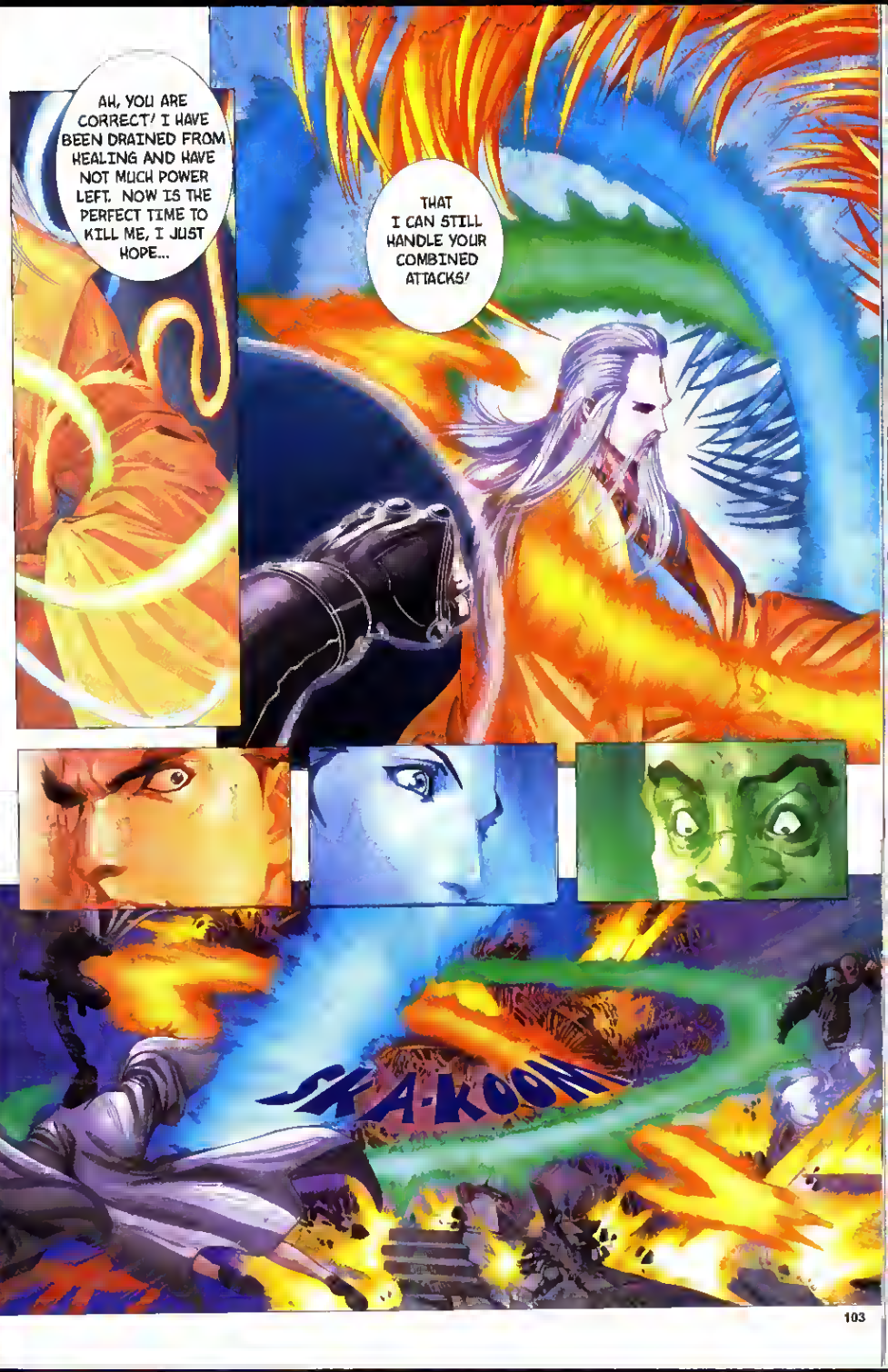
BACK AT MASTER ZHUGE'S HALL, SIMA LET HIMSELF BE IMPRISONED SO THAT HE COULD BYPASS THE HALL'S SECURITY TO KILL MASTER ZHUGE!


I... AM THE FINAL TARGET?

ARE YOU SURPRISED? DON'T WORRY, I WOULD NEVER LIE TO A DEAD MAN.

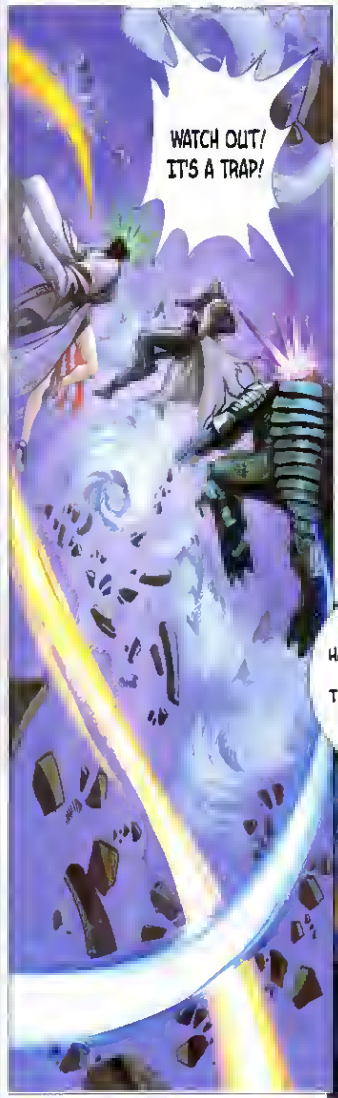
IF I AM TO BE KILLED TODAY, CAN YOU ANSWER SOME OF MY QUESTIONS?
SORRY A DEAD MAN DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW SO MUCH. BESIDES I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU TOO MUCH TIME TO RECOVER. I MAY BE CRAZY BUT I'M NOT STUPID!
I AM VERY FLATTERED IF THE OTHER ONE IS ME!
I KNOW NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL OR SMART I AM, THERE ARE STILL TWO PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO ARE BETTER THAN ME. ONE IS MY BROTHER, THE TRUE LEADER OF - THE 13 MASKED MEN!

ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD UNDER-ESTIMATE THE GREAT MASTER ZHUGE!
IF YOU THINK I AM SO POWERFUL, THEN WHY COME TO KILL ME AREN'T YOU AFRAID I WILL BE YOUR DEMISE?
NORMALLY, EVEN THE 3 OF US TOGETHER WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH, BUT TODAY...
EVEN A BLIND MAN CAN TELL THAT YOU ARE DRAINED. NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO KILL YOU!
FWSH


AH, YOU ARE CORRECT! I HAVE BEEN DRAINED FROM HEALING AND HAVE NOT MUCH POWER LEFT. NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO KILL ME, I JUST HOPE...
THAT I CAN STILL HANDLE YOUR COMBINED ATTACKS!
SKA-KOOM

TRI-CHI
DELTA
FORCE

YOU STILL HAVE THIS MUCH STRENGTH LEFT? I AM HONORED TO MEET A GREAT OPPONENT LIKE YOU, MASTER ZHUGE!


WATCH OUT! IT'S A TRAP!

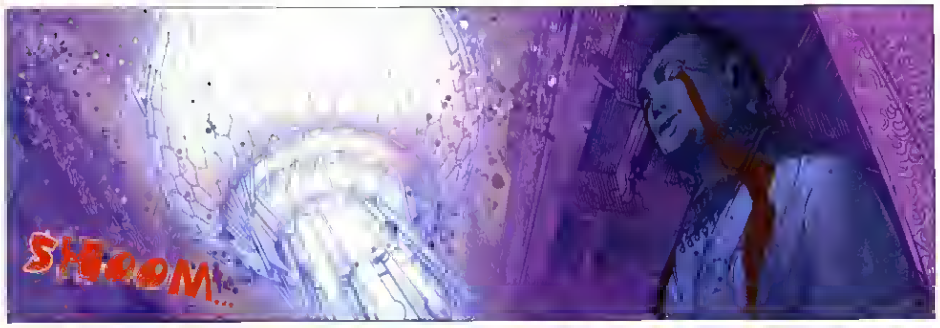
SKTTA

SCHLPT

IT SEEMS WE HAVE FALLEN INTO MASTER ZHUGE'S TRAP, RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

REMEMBER YOU OWE ME ONE FOR THIS!
MASTER OF NORTH CITY
BAI-YU ZHOU
CONSTABLE COLD BLOODED
I ALWAYS REPAY MY DEBTS!

SIMA HUANGFEN, DON'T BE ANXIOUS, YOU CAN NOW CONFESS ALL YOUR CRIMES TO ME. I GUARANTEE THAT NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE, NOT EVEN YOURSELF!
A TRAP WITHIN A TRAP. SIMA THOUGHT HE HAD THE PERFECT PLAN, BUT HE WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR MASTER ZHUGE'S ROUSE.


SHOOM...

SHOOM...

I SHOULD DIE... I HAVE BROUGHT SHAME TO OUR HOUSE... I SHOULD DIE....
SHOOM...

I SHOULD DIE...

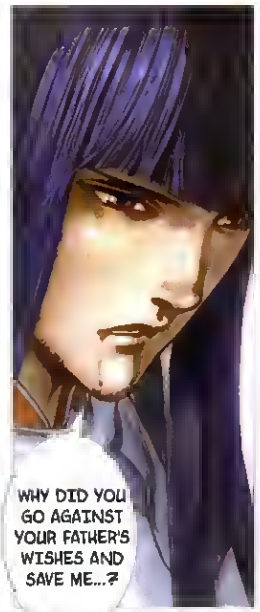
A STRENGTH BEYOND MERE SELF-PRESERVATION WELLS UP AND YAYUI USES HIS HIDDEN WEAPONS WITH FULL FORCE!

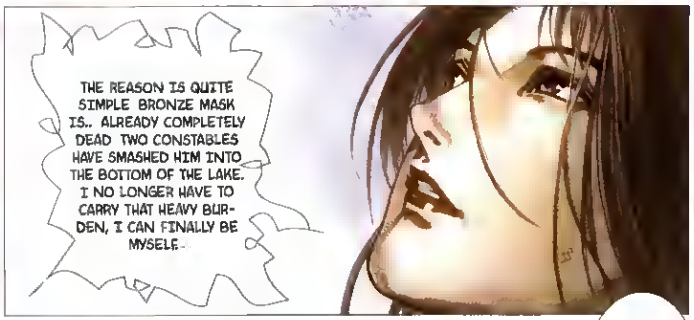
OUYANG JUE, WHO WAS SO SURE OF HIS VICTORY, IS STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF HIS EYE. UNDER THE COMBINED ATTACK OF EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS, HE FINALLY GETS HIS COMEUPPANCE AND DIES ON THE SPOT!

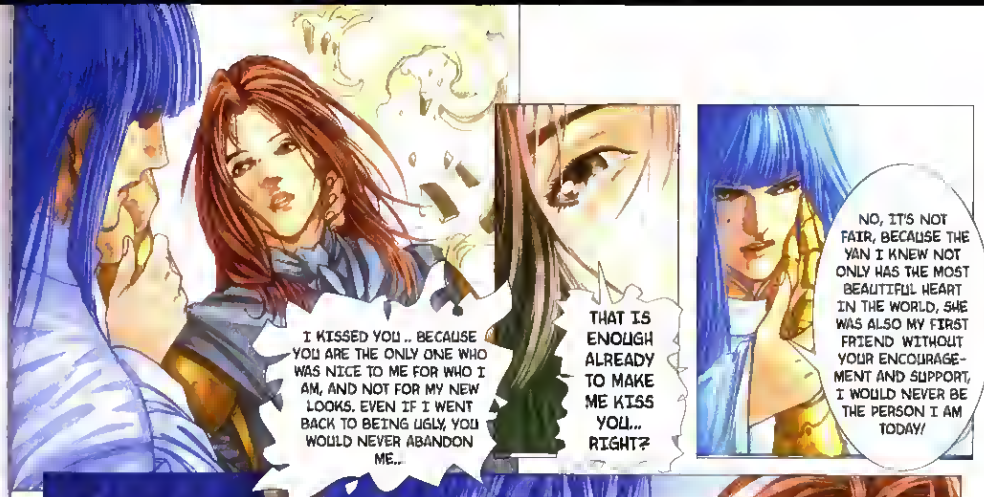
YAN ALREADY TOOK A HEAVY HIT FROM IRON HANDS, AND NOW THE CHAINED ATTACKS FROM OUYANG JUE SHATTER EVERY BONE IN HER BODY. THERE MAY BE NO WAY TO SAVE HER...

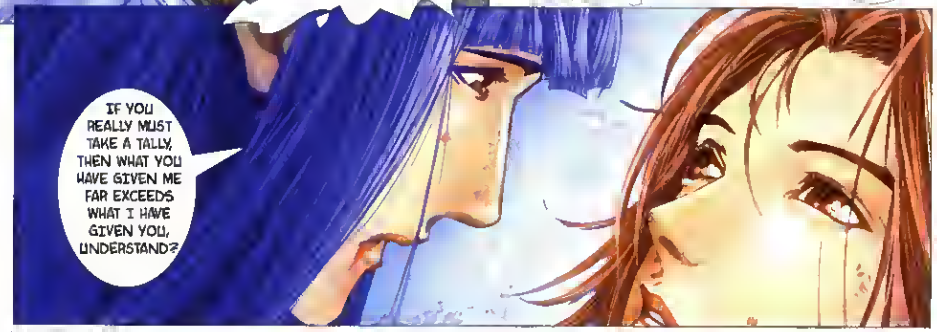
YAYU, DON'T BE STILL. I EITHER BETRAY MY FATHER OR BETRAY YOU. IF YOU SAVE ME, YOU WILL BE TORN BY THE SAME FEELINGS OF GUILT FOR SENDING ME TO PRISON/ WHY TORTURE YOURSELF...
MS. LEN IT IS GOOD THAT YOU REALIZED THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS. BUT IT IS A LITTLE TOO LATE...

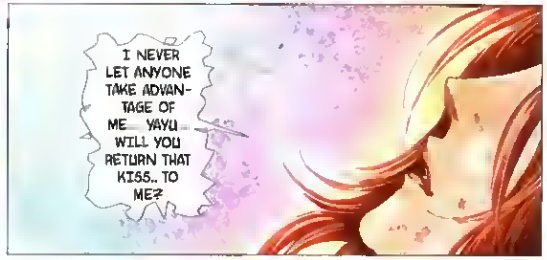
EMOTIONLESS, FAIR AND IMPARTIAL AS ALREADY TOLD MASTER ZHUGE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YAN AND BRONZE MASK. THUS, IRON HANDS KNEW HER TRUE IDENTITY.




THE REASON IS QUITE SIMPLE. BRONZE MASK IS... ALREADY COMPLETELY DEAD. TWO CONSTABLES HAVE SMASHED HIM INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE. I NO LONGER HAVE TO CARRY THAT HEAVY BURDEN, I CAN FINALLY BE MYSELF.


I KISSED YOU .. BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS NICE TO ME FOR WHO I AM, AND NOT FOR MY NEW LOOKS. EVEN IF I WENT BACK TO BEING UGLY, YOU WOULD NEVER ABANDON ME..
THAT IS ENOUGH ALREADY TO MAKE ME KISS YOU... RIGHT?
NO, IT'S NOT FAIR, BECAUSE THE YAN I KNEW NOT ONLY HAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HEART IN THE WORLD, SHE WAS ALSO MY FIRST FRIEND WITHOUT YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, I WOULD NEVER BE THE PERSON I AM TODAY!





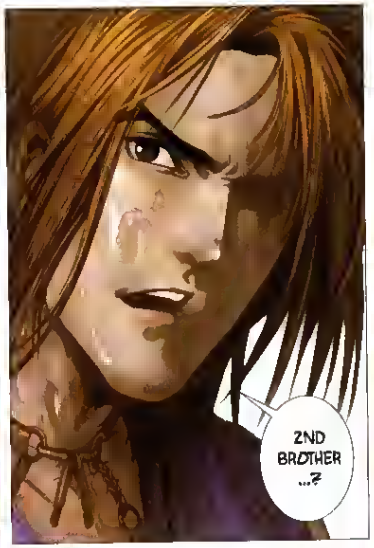
I WILL USE THE COURAGE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TO FIGHT ALL THE INJUSTICE IN THIS WORLD!
YAN, REST IN PEACE, ONE DAY, WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN IN THE AFTER WORLD...

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, BUT I CAN'T LET PRINCE XIMEN ESCAPE, I NEED TO BRING HIM IN FOR QUESTIONING!
ALSO, THERE IS STILL 3RD BROTHER. I HAVE TO BRING HIS BODY BACK WITH ME!

WHO'S THERE?

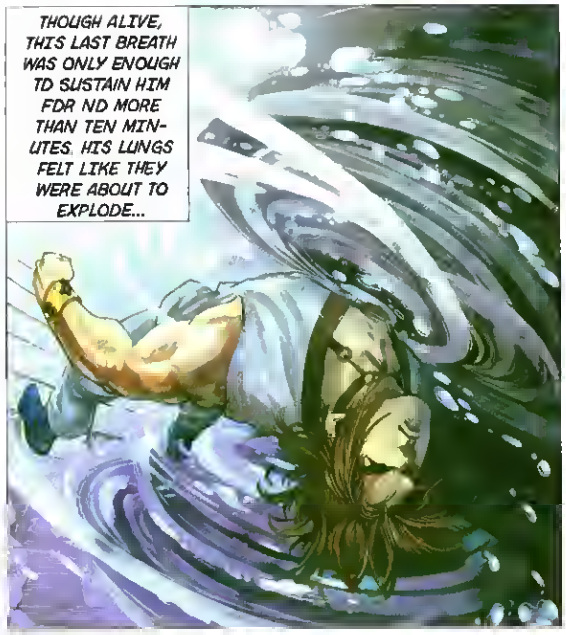
HHAM

...

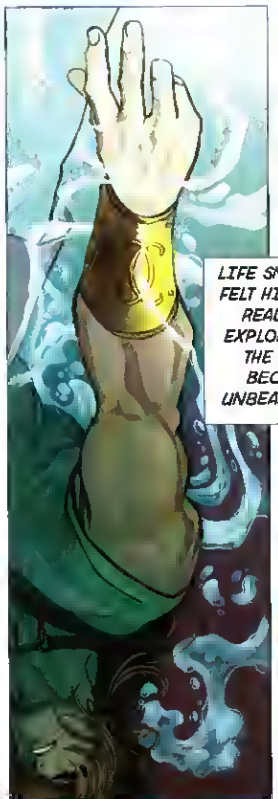

2ND BROTHER ...?

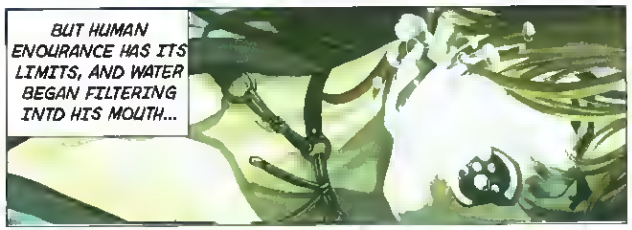
AM I DREAMING, HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?!

LIFE SNATCHER WAS ABOUT TO BE DROWNED BY THE TIDAL WAVE. NOT GIVING UP HOPE, HE SUCKED IN ONE LAST LUNGFUL OF AIR...
USING HIS SPECIAL INTERNAL CHI TECHNIQUE OF HEAVENLY CHI CIRCULATION, HE WAS ABLE TO SLOW DOWN HIS OWN PHYSIOLOGY AND PROLONG HIS LIFE ALL WITH THIS ONE LAST BREATH...
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I JUST WASN'T MEANT TO DIE, OR PERHAPS I'VE BUILT UP TOO MUCH GOOD LUCK...
LIFE SNATCHER'S HEART RATE SLOWED INCREDIBLY, FALLING INTO A NEAR DEATH STATE. HE SLOWLY SANK TO THE BOTTOM...
LIFE SNATCHER MADE IT SEEM SO EASY, BUT IN REALITY, IF NOT FOR IS INCREDIBLE LUCK AND INDOMITABLE SPIRIT, HE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW..

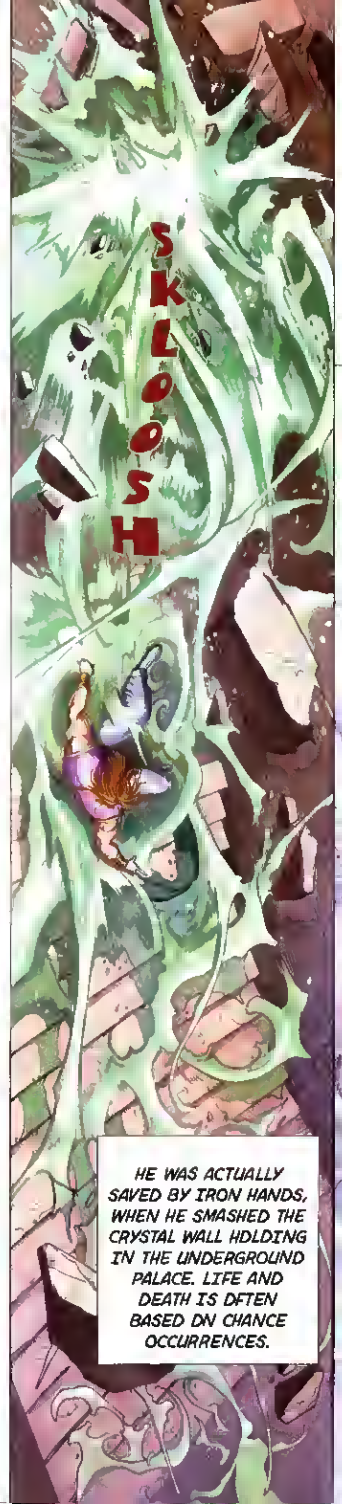

THOUGH ALIVE, THIS LAST BREATH WAS ONLY ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN HIM FOR NO MORE THAN TEN MINUTES. HIS LUNGS FELT LIKE THEY WERE ABOUT TO EXPLODE...

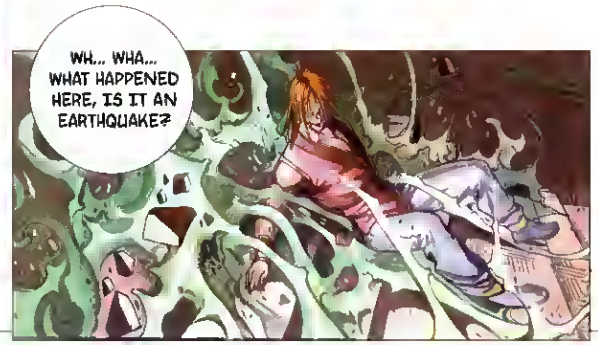
AH... THIS HURTS... DAMN IT! BUT I WON'T GIVE UP!
HIS NORMAL CHEERFUL EXTERIOR HIDES AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT. HE WOULD RATHER SUFFER THE PAINS OF SUFFOCATION RATHER THAN BOW DOWN TO THE GOD OF DEATH...


LIFE SNATCHER FELT HIS BODY READY TO EXPLODE AND THE PAIN BECAME UNBEARABLE...


BUT HUMAN ENDURANCE HAS ITS LIMITS, AND WATER BEGAN FILTERING INTO HIS MOUTH...

JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD DIE, THE TUNNEL SUDDENLY COLLAPSED, AND THE LAKE WATER GUSHED OUT OFFERING HIM AN ESCAPE JUST IN TIME!

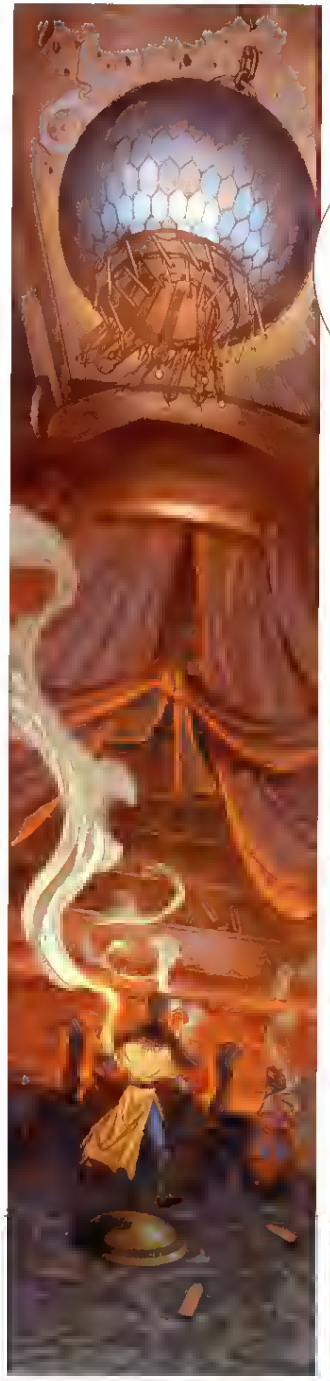

SKLOOSH
HE WAS ACTUALLY SAVED BY IRON HANDS, WHEN HE SMASHED THE CRYSTAL WALL HOLDING IN THE UNDERGROUND PALACE. LIFE AND DEATH IS OFTEN BASED ON CHANCE OCCURRENCES.


WH... WHA... WHAT HAPPENED HERE, IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE?

WEIRD, ALTHOUGH IT HURT LIKE A MOTHER BEING TRAPPED IN THAT WATER, MY CHI FEELS STRONGER THAN IT EVER DID BEFORE, AND MY WOUNDS SEEM TO HAVE HEALED AS WELL...

LIFE SNATCHER'S STRENGTH SUDDENLY INCREASED, BECAUSE OF HIS LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE...
NOT ONLY HAS THIS HELPED HIM REOPEN ALL THE MERIDIAN POINTS FOR MAXIMUM POWER, IT HAS ALSO DONE WONDERS FOR HIS INTERNAL INJURIES. LIFE SNATCHER RECEIVED A UNEXPECTED BOON FOR HIS TROUBLES.
NEARING THE EDGE OF DEATH, LIFE SNATCHER FOUGHT ALL THE HARDER. USING HIS HEAVENLY CHI CIRCULATION, HE INFUSED HIS BODY WITH CHI. IT SPED OUT ALONG ALL THE MERIDIANS OF HIS BODY...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT LATER; BUT FIRST I HAVE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS GOD-FORSAKEN PLACE!

BIG BROTHER WILL BE ECSTATIC TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! SIMA IS PROBABLY WRECKING HAVOC BACK AT THE HALL. WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP. YOU GO FIND PRINCE XIMEN AND BRING HIM BACK WITH US!
UM... WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
HEY 2ND BROTHER, YOUR NEW SHIRT LOOKS SO COOL. WHERE DID YOU BUY IT?
WHAT...??



FATHER... YOUR SON HAS DISGRACED YOU, PLEASE FORGIVE MY INCOMPETENCE. I BEG FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS, BUT DON'T WORRY...

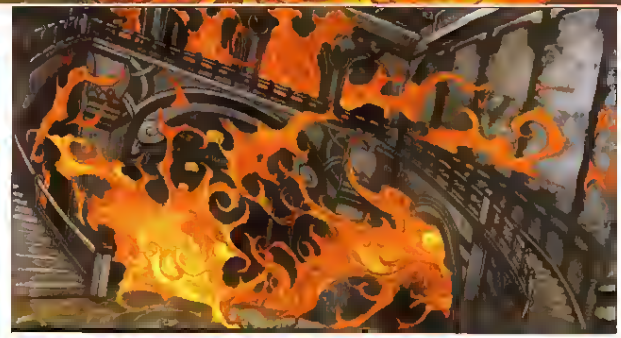
THOUGH OUR GREAT HOUSE IS DESTROY, I WON'T LET THEM SULLY OUR NAME!

PAK

KRSSSH

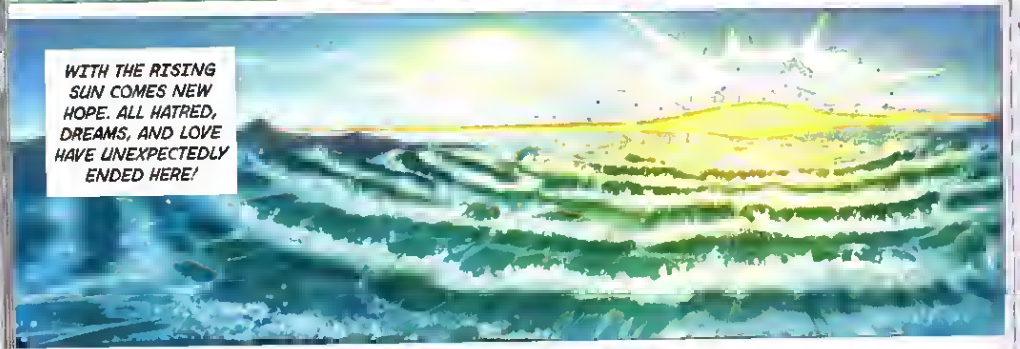
WOOSHH

EMOTIONLESS, I WILL DO WHAT I HAVE PROMISED. NO ONE WILL TAKE AWAY THE SECRETS OF WHAT I HAVE DONE, NOT EVEN YOU. YOU WILL BE BURIED ALIVE HERE WITH THE XIMEN HOUSE! HAHA..



CHK

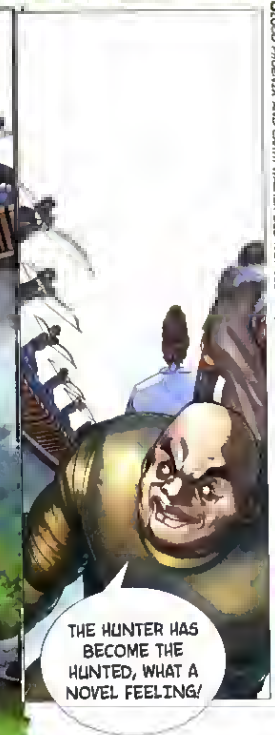
AN EARTH SHATTERING EXPLOSION SENDS THE GRAND AND OPULENT XIMEN HOUSE INTO THE LAKE!
KOOOOOM!


WITH THE RISING SUN COMES NEW HOPE. ALL HATRED, DREAMS, AND LOVE HAVE UNEXPECTEDLY ENDED HERE!

JUST WHEN SIMA FELT HE HAD CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, COLD BLOODED AND BAI-YU ZHOU ARRIVED...

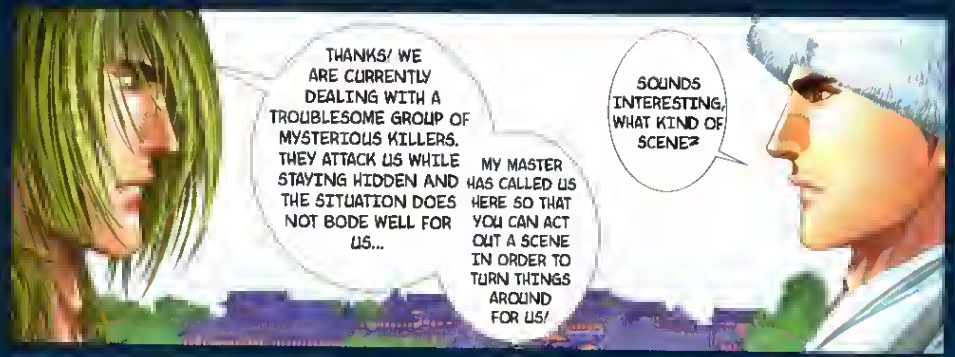
MASTER ZHUGE IS WELL PREPARED.

DAMN, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY NOW. WITH THESE WELL-TRAINED DOGS UP ABOVE, MASTER ZHUGE, COLD BLOODED AND BAI-YU ZHOU, IT WILL BE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!


THE HUNTER HAS BECOME THE HUNTED, WHAT A NOVEL FEELING!

ICE TIPPED SWORD? SO YOU ARE THE FAMED MASTER OF NORTH CITY, BAI-YU ZHOU!
NOT THE LEAST BIT TROUBLED BY YOUR PREDICAMENT, YOU REALLY ARE THE BOSS OF THE 13 MURDERERS!
PREDICAMENT? IT IS A BIT EARLY TO TELL DON'T YOU THINK. I REALLY DO ADMIRE MASTER ZHUGE'S SKILL AND WISDOM THOUGH!
WE EACH HAVE OUR WAYS!

YOU HAVE BEEN ATTACKING FROM THE SHADOWS, WITHOUT THIS BOLO MOVE, HOW ELSE COULD WE LURE YOU OUT INTO THE OPEN?
ONE PLANNED PERFORMANCE FOR THREE BIG FISH. IT IS WELL WORTH IT!
THREE DAYS AGO OVER THE EIGHT GODS BRIDGE...
WHERE IS YOUR FLEXIBLE SWORD?
I DID NOT BRING IT, BECAUSE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING YOU. HOWEVER, I DO HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK...
THERE ARE NOT MANY OPPONENTS WORTHY OF MY TIME, AND THERE ARE ALMOST NONE I WOULD CALL FRIEND. THEREFORE, A FRIEND'S TROUBLES ARE ALSO MY TROUBLES. TELL ME HOW I CAN HELP!

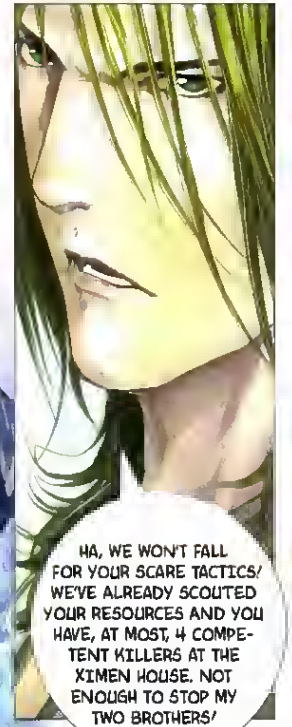

THANKS/ WE ARE CURRENTLY DEALING WITH A TROUBLESOME GROUP OF MYSTERIOUS KILLERS. THEY ATTACK US WHILE STAYING HIDDEN AND THE SITUATION DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR US...
MY MASTER HAS CALLED US HERE SO THAT YOU CAN ACT OUT A SCENE IN ORDER TO TURN THINGS AROUND FOR US/
SOUNDS INTERESTING, WHAT KIND OF SCENE?

EASY, IN FRONT OF ALL THESE WITNESSES, WOUND ME GRIEVOUSLY/
THAT DOESN'T SEEM HARD, AND THEN?

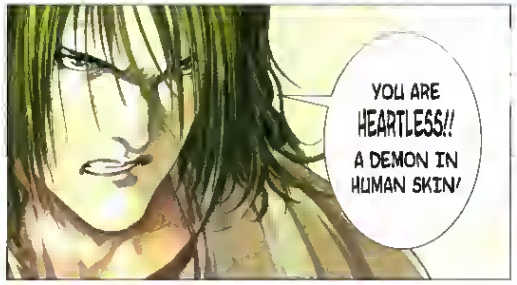
MY MASTER KNOWS YOU WELL. HE HAS ASKED ME TO INVITE YOU TO FIGHT THE 13 MURDERS, SO YOUR NEW ICE TIPPED SWORD WILL GET PLENTY OF PRACTICE.
HE KNOWS ME VERY WELL/ BUT I AM THE MASTER OF NORTH CITY. I CANNOT BE SUMMONED ABOUT TO DO YOUR BIDDING LIKE SOME COMMON SERVANT. IN EXCHANGE, I WANT...

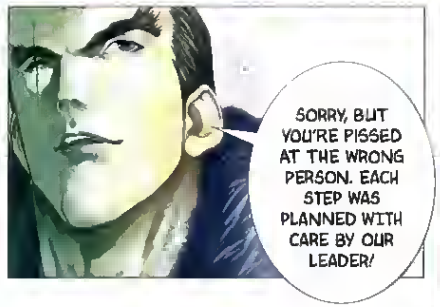
IF I AM STILL ALIVE AFTER THIS CASE, THEN I WILL FIGHT THIS DUEL ONCE MORE WITH YOU/
A PROMISE THEN/ IF YOU WANT TO SUFFER SUCH A HUMILIATING LOSS, THAT IS FINE WITH ME/

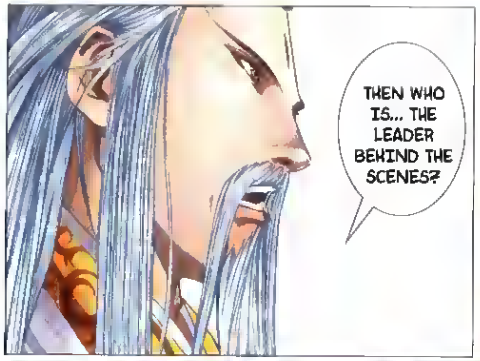
ONE MISSTEP THEN, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY. BUT SOON YOU WILL ALL BE DEAD, WITH EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS JOINING YOU SOON ON YOUR ROAD TO HEAVEN/

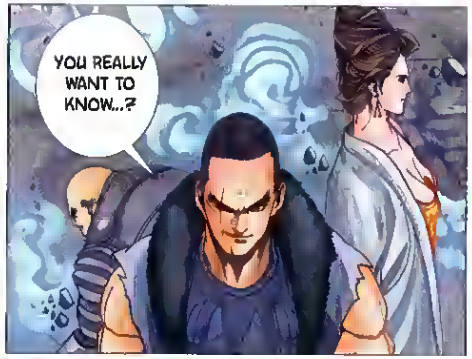

HA, WE WON'T FALL FOR YOUR SCARE TACTICS/ WE'VE ALREADY SCOUTED YOUR RESOURCES AND YOU HAVE, AT MOST, 4 COMPETENT KILLERS AT THE XIMEN HOUSE. NOT ENOUGH TO STOP MY TWO BROTHERS/

HOW COULD I BE SO CARELESS WITH TWO POWERFUL CONSTABLES?
AS A CONTINGENCY PLAN, WE HAVE PLANTED LARGE AMOUNTS OF EXPLOSIVES BENEATH THE XIMEN HOUSE. WE WILL NEVER ALLOW EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS TO LEAVE THERE ALIVE/


YOU ARE HEARTLESS!! A DEMON IN HUMAN SKIN/


SORRY, BUT YOU'RE PISSED AT THE WRONG PERSON. EACH STEP WAS PLANNED WITH CARE BY OUR LEADER/

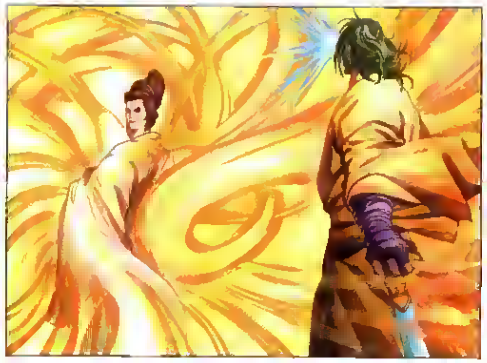

THEN WHO IS... THE LEADER BEHIND THE SCENES?


YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW...?

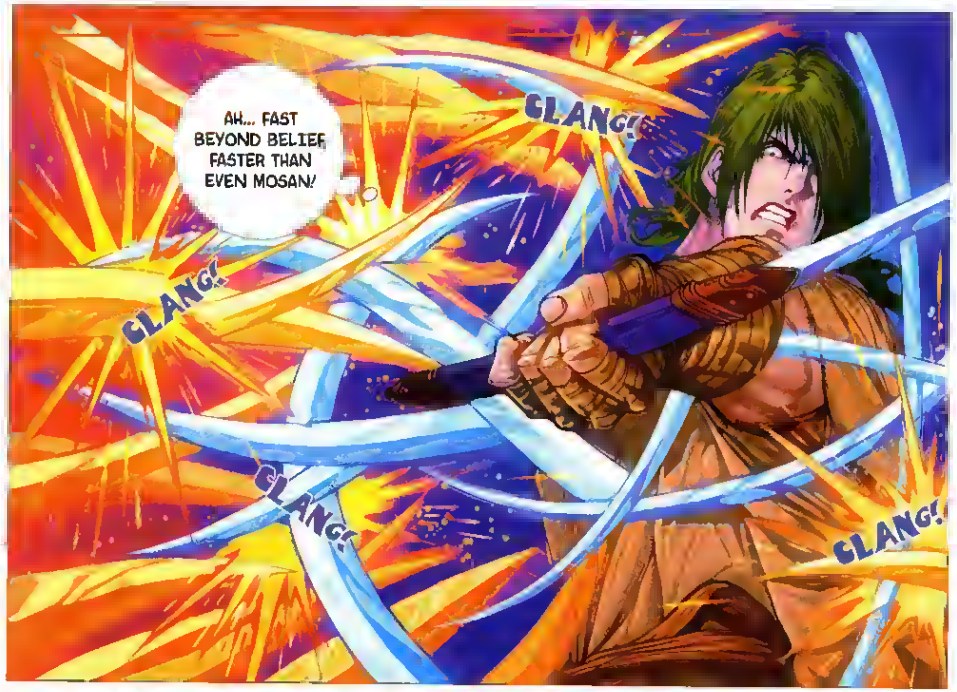
DEPENDS ON YOUR ABILITY...!

I'VE HEARD THAT YOUR SWORD IS FAST. I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO MEET YOU!

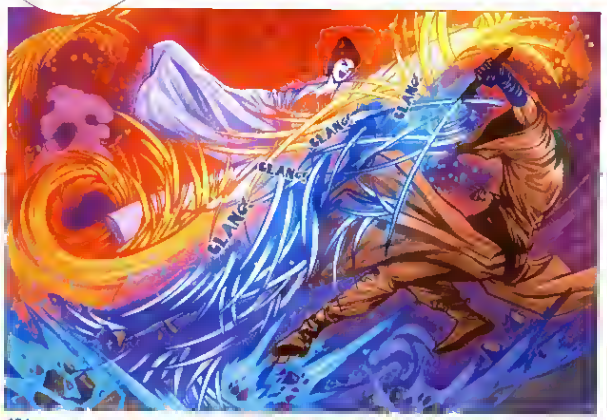
I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO USE YOUR SWORD!

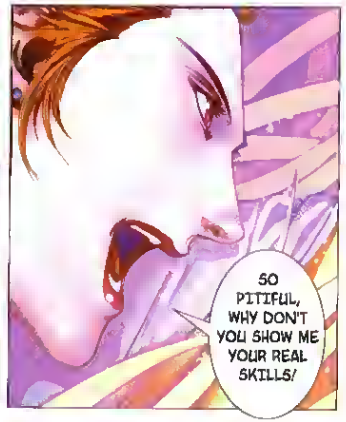


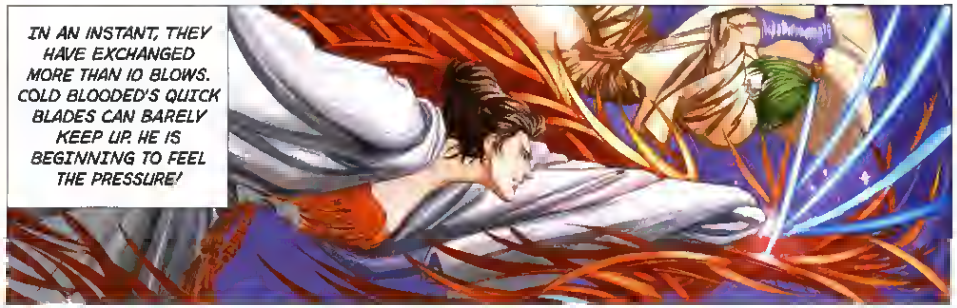
CONCEALED SPACE BLADES
SHOCKING RED ONE STRIKE


AH... FAST BEYOND BELIEF, FASTER THAN EVEN MOSAN!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

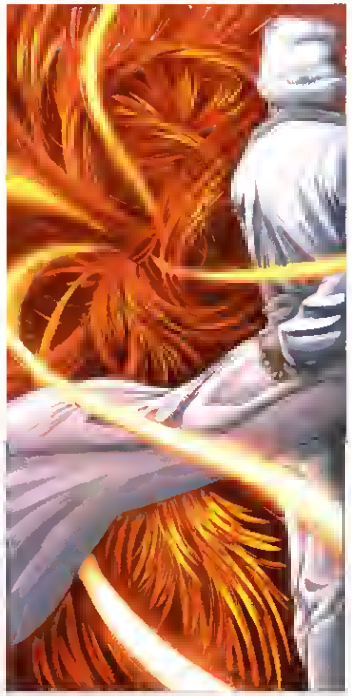
NOT BAD. I WILL JUST HAVE TO BE FASTER!


CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!


SO PITIFUL, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME YOUR REAL SKILLS!


IN AN INSTANT, THEY HAVE EXCHANGED MORE THAN 10 BLOWS. COLD BLOODED'S QUICK BLADES CAN BARELY KEEP UP. HE IS BEGINNING TO FEEL THE PRESSURE!

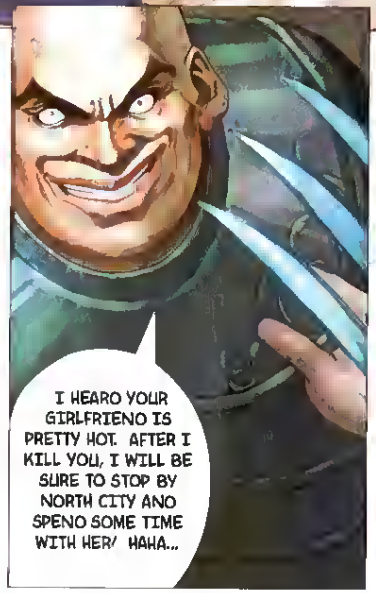
SO FAST... WAS MOSAN TALKING ABOUT HER WHEN HE MENTIONED THE FASTEST BLADE?



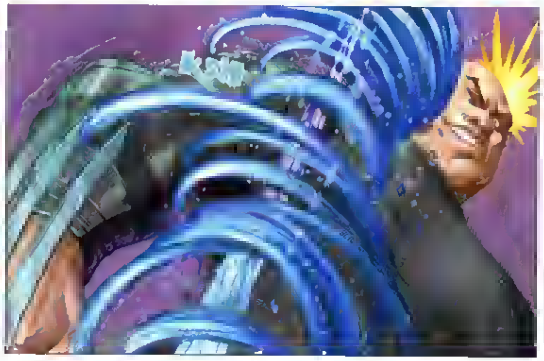
I WISH TO FIGHT HER INSTEAD!

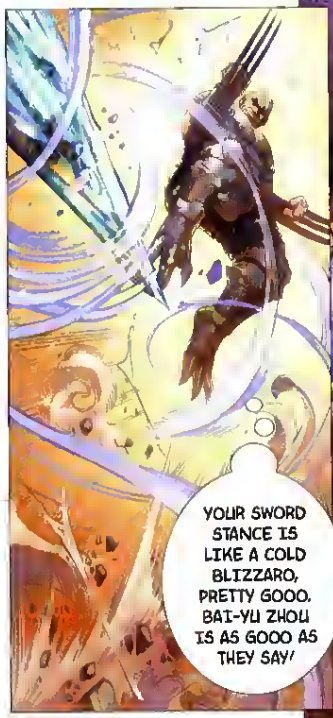
BAI-YU ZHOU... I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME!

LOOK AT YOUR SHORT, UNGAINLY PROPORTIONS, AND THEN LOOK AT MY MAGNIFICENT FORM. CAN YOU COMPREHEND MY MEANING OR ARE YOU AS STUPID AS YOU ARE UGLY?

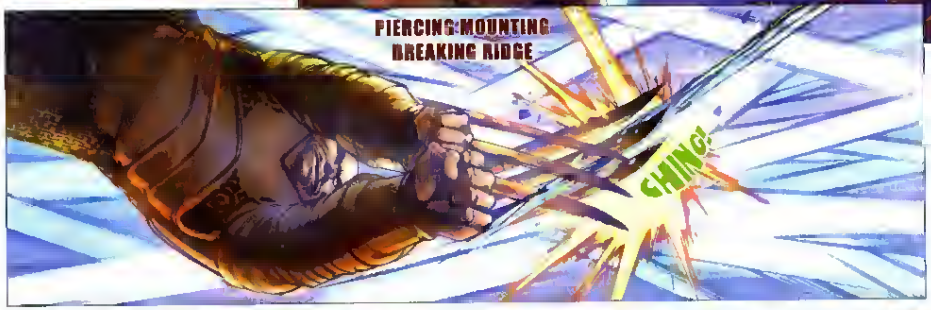

I HEARD YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS PRETTY HOT. AFTER I KILL YOU, I WILL BE SURE TO STOP BY NORTH CITY AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH HER! HAHA...

THE SHORTEST THING ABOUT YOU WILL BE YOUR LIFE!




YOUR SWORD STANCE IS LIKE A COLD BLIZZARD, PRETTY GOOD. BAI-YU ZHOU IS AS GOOD AS THEY SAY!

TRASH LIKE YOU WON'T TAKE MORE THAN 10 STANCES TO FINISH!
ICE TIP
BLOOD DRAIN

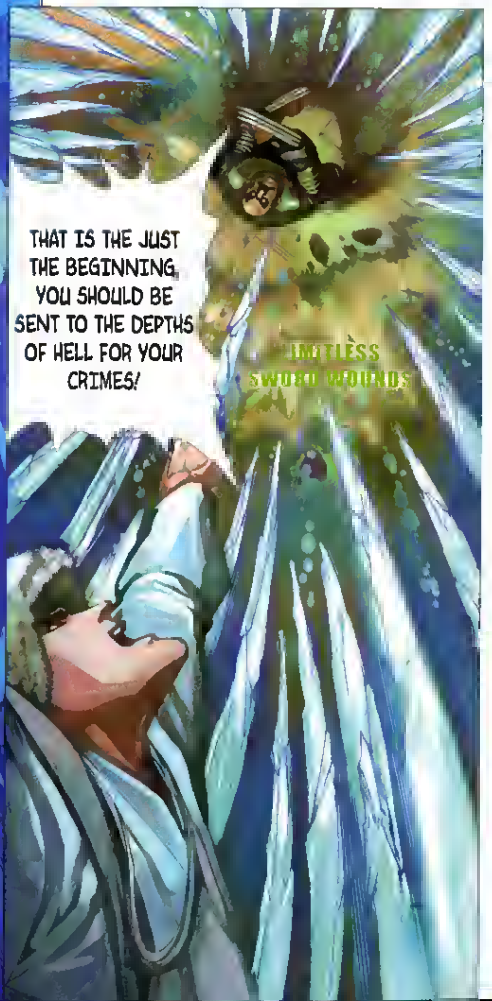

PIERCING MOUNTING
BREAKING RIDGE
CHING!

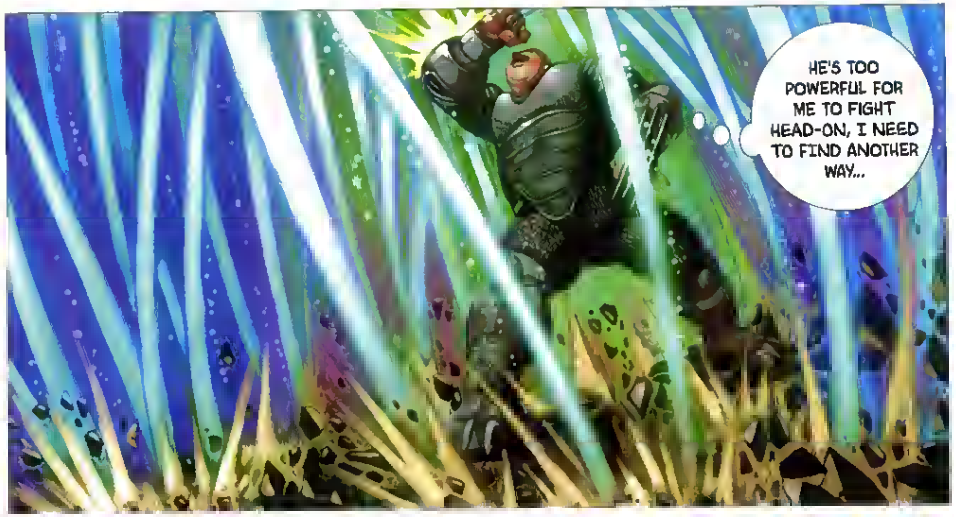
LONG AND FLACCID IS NOT AS USEFUL AS SMALL AND NIMBLE!

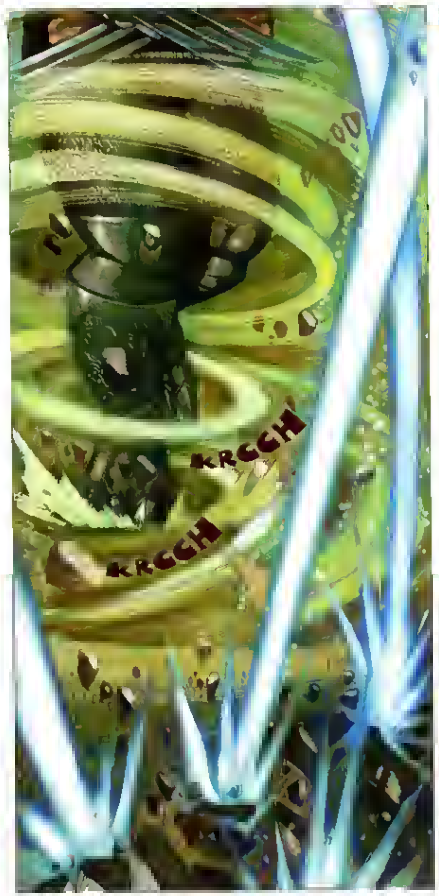
DIRTY LECH, I WILL CUT OFF YOUR DIRTY HANDS FIRST!

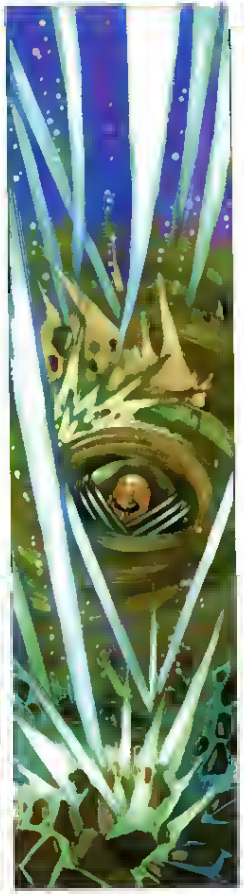
MOUNTAIN
SHATTERING
ICE SPLIT

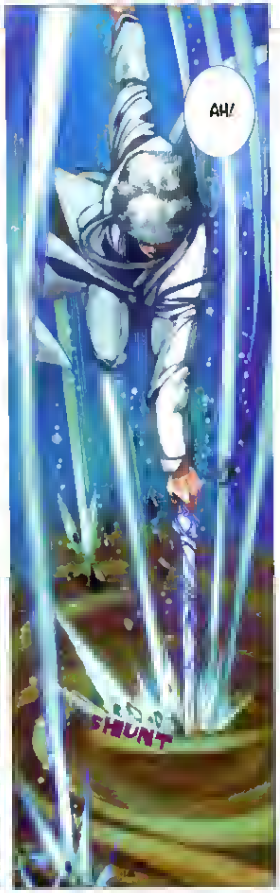
AH!


THAT IS THE JUST THE BEGINNING. YOU SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL FOR YOUR CRIMES!
IMTLESS
SWORD WOUNDS

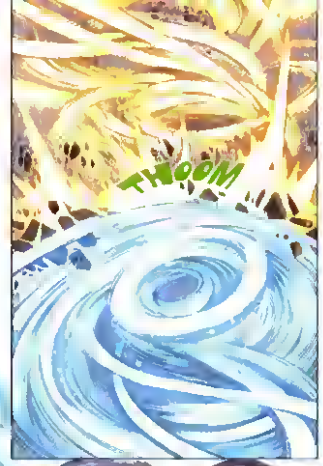

HE'S TOO POWERFUL FOR ME TO FIGHT HEAD-ON, I NEED TO FIND ANOTHER WAY...


KRGGH
KRGGH




AH!
SHUNT

WHAT IS THIS WEIRD MARTIAL ARTS STYLE!
SPOILED BRAT, YOU MIGHT BE STRONGER IN SKILL, BUT YOU ARE NO WHERE AS PRACTICED IN DOLING OUT DEATH!


THOOM!

OLD MAN, WHY DON'T YOU MOVE? ARE YOU AFRAID THAT I WILL DEFEAT YOU? OR ARE YOU SO WEAK, THAT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND?

TRUTHFULLY, I AM WAITING.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

I AM WAITING FOR YOUR INEVITABLE DEFEAT! NORMALLY, I CALCULATED THAT 60% OF MY POWERS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU, BUT I HAVE BEEN GREATLY WEAKENED TODAY...
I KNOW THAT ALREADY, THAT IS WHY I AM HERE NOW!
LUCKILY FOR ME, YOU ARE NOT IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN MYSELF. YOU HAVE BEEN GRAVELY INJURED IN THE BATTLE 3 DAYS AGO. YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN SOME THING TO HEAL YOURSELF. AM I CORRECT?
SUCH DANGEROUS MEDICINE MUST HAVE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS. ALTHOUGH IT CAN QUICKLY INCREASE YOUR POWER, IT WILL ALSO QUICKLY SAP AWAY YOUR STRENGTH. I MERELY NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE DRUG TAKES ITS COURSE, THEN EASILY CAPTURE YOU!
YOU HAVE INCREDIBLE EYES MASTER ZHUGE, NO DETAILS ESCAPES THEIR NOTICE. I AM ONCE AGAIN IN GREAT AWE OF YOUR POWERS! THEREFORE...

DEATH FIST
SECOND STANCE
BIG ESCAPE
I WILL CHALLENGE YOU MYSELF! DIE!
KWA-KOOM
WITH A CRAZED ROAR, SIMA RUSHES FORTH, READY TO TAKE MASTER ZHUGE TO THE GRAVE!
END OF VOLUME 4